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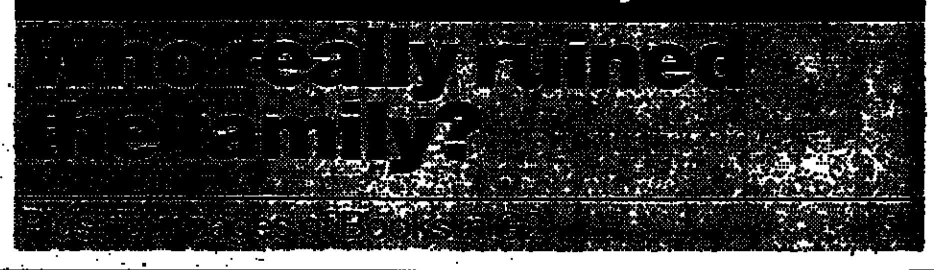
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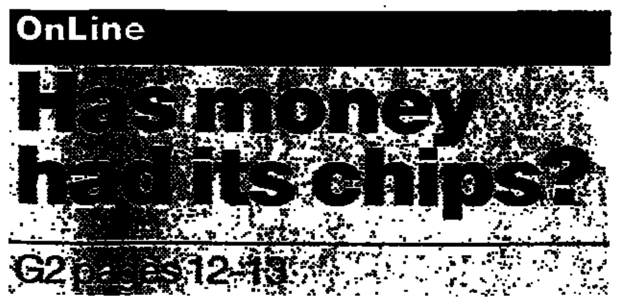
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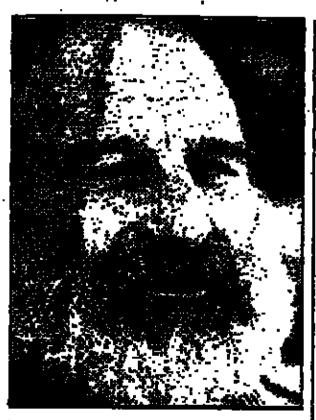
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OnLine



The brother names his price: £750,000


Frank Gilford: agreed to compensation package

Luke Harding, Kathy Evans and Ian Black in New York

THE fate of the British nurse Deborah Parry took an extraordinary twist last night when it emerged that the brother of murder victim Yvonne Gilford had demanded $1.2 million to save her from execution.

Frank Gilford had earlier insisted he would make use of his right under Saudi law which allows him to call for the death penalty to be carried out. But yesterday Parry's defence lawyer revealed Gilford had agreed to a compensation package which would leave him with a personal pay-off of $700,000 (£437,500). As part of the deal, another $500,000 would be donated to a children's hospital in southern Australia.

The development means there is now no prospect of Parry being publicly beheaded, a diplomatic catastrophe which the Saudi authorities are anxious to avoid.

But the rift between London and Riyadh deepened yesterday over the likely flogging of the second British nurse, Lucille McLauchlan, who was sentenced to eight years in prison and 500 lashes on Tuesday. She was found by a Saudi court to have been an accessory to the murder of Yvonne Gilford, found dead with 21 stab wounds last December.

Saleh Hejailan, the nurses' Saudi lawyer, said yesterday the compensation had been agreed in a contract signed by Gilford and lodged with the British High Commission in Australia. Speaking from Washington, he said: "I am shocked and disgusted that Mr Gilford is treating this like a banking transaction, not like the human tragedy that it is. This is a huge sum of money for him.

"Gilford wants to have his cake and eat it. He has signed a document saying that when he receives the money, he will waive the death penalty. Once you start talking about taking money in lieu of a death sentence, then that is it."

The lawyer said the confusion which has surrounded Mr Gilford's intentions was caused by his deep embarrassment over his demand for money. Under Islamic Sharia law, the relatives of a murder victim are entitled to receive blood money when they waive a death sentence. The Saudi Embassy yesterday said relatives in cases of murder rarely accept compensation, known in the Arab world as *diya*. The amount paid is usually only a fraction of Frank Gilford's demand — around £15,000.

The compensation agreement has now been forwarded to Saudi prosecutors in Riyadh. Lawyers acting for the British nurses argue that the package should be substantially reduced on the grounds that it was originally drawn up to cover clemency for both women.

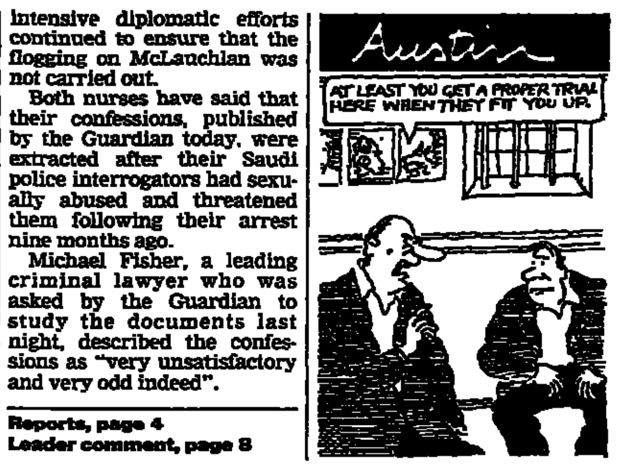
Last night it was not clear where exactly the blood money would come from. The nurses' defence team pledged to raise the money from the British public and said a special fund for Deborah Parry would be set up.

In New York, officials travelling with the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, insisted last night that there would be no public discussion of retaliation against Saudi Arabia, as intensive diplomatic efforts continued to ensure that the flogging on McLauchlan was not carried out.

Both nurses have said that their confessions, published by the Guardian today, were extracted after their Saudi police interrogators had sexually abused and threatened them following their arrest nine months ago.

Michael Fisher, a leading criminal lawyer who was asked by the Guardian to study the documents last night, described the confessions as "very unsatisfactory and very odd indeed".

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Leader comment, page 8



Allowing a child to die

Doctors set out limits of care

Christopher Elliott

DOCTORS published a ground breaking set of guidelines yesterday setting out the circumstances in which seriously ill children should be allowed to die.

The new framework reflects the medical profession's battle to keep pace with technology which allows life to be sustained in an ever increasing number of circumstances, often without forseeable benefit or in great suffering for the patient.

It identifies five situations where the withholding or withdrawal of treatment may be considered. In certain circumstances this may include food and water.

The ethics advisory committee of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health spent two years drawing up the report, taking advice from within and without the health care profession. A wide range of views were sought from religious groups, including Muslims, Buddhists and humanists.

However, campaigners against abortion and euthanasia claimed last night that the report promoted euthanasia under the guise of medical ethics.

Professor Jack Scarisbrick, the national chairman of Life, an anti-abortion charity, said that while some of the proposals were acceptable. "But there does appear to be a sinister side to this document — it appears to be promoting euthanasia under the guise of old medical ethics." he said.

"Permanent vegetative state is a much less clear cut condition than doctors used to think. There are remarkable stories about people, who doctors said they could no longer help, that have recovered.

"It appears there is nasty fascism lurking in this document."

But the authors of the report, which was "re-written tens of times" to reflect views put forward, insist they are against euthanasia.

The Rev Professor Gordon Dunstan, a moral and social theologist and committee member, said yesterday: "In our society you put paramount value on human life, not an absolute value, and doctors do not struggle to prolong life against the interests of the patient."

He said the difficulty is that pro-life groups believe in the absolute value of life but this had never been a principle of medical ethics. There was a point when the role of the doctor moved from "the management of life to the management of death".

The guidelines do not have legal force but will be circulated to every paediatrician in the UK. The report stresses that the decisions should be taken not only by the doctors and nurses but also by the parents and, where possible, by the child.

At the heart of the 27-page document is the principle that the best interests of the child are served. The authors emphasise that communication is the key to the care of seriously ill children, with every effort made to secure consensus between doctors, parents and child. When there is a fundamental disagreement over whether treatment should continue there could be recourse to a second opinion or, in extreme cases, the courts.

Doctors can seek advice from the Official Solicitor and seek a court order to either continue or to withdraw treatment, overriding the wishes of the parents.

Professor David Baum, President of the college, writes in the report: "We are forced to wrestle with dreadful choices. Sometimes it is necessary to come to the conclusion that for an individual child ... the more humane path is palliation, rather than a continuation of life-saving treatment. Our professional responsibilities do not allow us to walk away from such difficulties."

Professor Neil McIntosh, chairman of the committee, said that every paediatrician had to make decision about whether to withhold treatment. " We are trying to ... put these decisions in context and come up with a common procedure."



FOR six years, Barry and Carmen Daniels have battled in the hospitals and the High Court to find a cure for their son, *writes Vivek Chaudhary*.

Rhys, aged six, suffers from Batten's disease, which causes blindness, dementia and immobility. His sister Charly, aged nine, also suffers from the disease, which has no known cure. Bone marrow transplants on dogs with a similar condition have produced promising results.

Mr and Mrs Daniels took the Government to court claiming that the closure of Westminster Children's Hospital, when Rhys was the last child waiting to have a transplant, cost them vital time in trying to save his life.

Rhys eventually had two unsuccessful bone marrow transplants when a hospital could be found but the condition in his sister was diagnosed too late for a transplant to be feasible.

Last month, the Daniels announced that the next time Rhys or his sister falls ill they should be allowed to die.

Mr Daniels yesterday gave a cautious welcome to the doctors' guidelines. "I'm in full agreement with trying to lay things out to make them easier for doctors and parents and I hope it works like that, rather than creating friction between the two parties. But every case must be taken on its own merits for the sake of the parents, doctors and child, and the guidelines cannot be too strict."

He added: "We know only too well that it is the worst decision a parent ever has to make but I hope this may help by encouraging doctors to get more involved in liaising with parents."

Guidelines

Doctors can consider withdrawing treatment when:
- ☐ The child is brain dead
- ☐ In a permanent vegetative state
- ☐ Treatment may delay death but not stop suffering
- ☐ Survival will leave the child with an unreasonable disability
- ☐ The child and the family feel further treatment is more than they can bear.

Ulster talks edge closer

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

NORTHERN Ireland's political parties last night seemed finally to be grinding towards substantive all-party talks beginning on Monday, after a day of frantic bartering at Stormont.

The Ulster Unionists, so far reluctant to commit themselves to participating, announced they were satisfied with a formula to move into the so-called substantive negotiations. They were claiming victory over the wording of that procedural motion.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, believed he had won concessions over the principle of consent and the decommissioning of terrorist weapons. He is also thought to have won a separate guarantee that the Parades Commission, detested by Orangemen, would be abolished in its present form.

There was a late-night hitch. The nationalist SDLP believed that referring to consent in the motion was both provocative and unnecessary. Government sources, however, remained confident progress was being made. Mo Mowlam, Northern Ireland Secretary, had still formally to deliver to the participants her verdict on the Ulster Unionists' demand that Sinn Fein be kicked out of the negotiations. She will reject it.

The wording of the motion is critical. With the Ulster Unionists knowing their indictment of Sinn Fein is lost, they needed a face-saving formula. They got it, with clauses indicating that decommissioning remained important. Consent was also written into the motion as the guiding principle of the talks. Sinn Fein can live with that.

The decommissioning clause says of the plenary session participants: "They would like to see the decommissioning of some paramilitary arms during negotiations." That is a long way from the Unionists' original demand for total disarmament of the paramilitary groups before they could come to the negotiating table. Consent is not mentioned in the context of Northern Ireland, so the Republican movement can stay on board.

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Kevin Keegan is expected to be signed as Fulham's new chief executive by Mohamed Al Fayed, the second division club's owner. 16

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Paddy Ashdown told the Liberal Democrat conference yesterday that co-operation politics would be tough but 'there will be real prizes to be won' PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

'Love this party though I do, I don't believe that all that we say is always right and that all others say is always wrong'

— Paddy Ashdown at the Liberal Democrats' conference yesterday

Ashdown looks to coalition politics

Criticism of Labour to accompany new co-operation, Lib Dems told

Michael White
Political Editor

PADDY Ashdown yesterday laid out his terms for closer links with Tony Blair's government when he told Liberal Democrats — and New Labour — that they would achieve more from the new political agenda through co-operation than through slanging matches.

Promising his party conference that "the best is yet to come", the Liberal Democrat leader gently steered them away from traditional confrontation. Lib Dem ideas would remain indispensable to radical politics, provided the party was willing to get its hands dirty in "real politics", he told his wary troops in Eastbourne.

"It's not all going to be plain sailing. No doubt we shall not always agree with every detail of the Government's proposals on constitutional reform ... That may mean compromises and I will find that as tough as any of you. But because this is real politics there will be real prizes to be won," Mr Ashdown predicted.

It was not the best of his 10 conference speeches and the applause was not rapturous, but his audience seemed to accept the logic of the carefully balanced appeal.

But Mr Ashdown is not out of the wood. Some suspect he has a secret agenda in which dropping the party's promise to raise income tax by a penny for education is part of the price he is willing to pay to appease Labour. It will be fiercely resisted. There may be an attempt to force a debate in the conference today.

Although Mr Ashdown was careful to attack Labour's shortcomings in office, there was little doubt that the underlying thrust of his message to party activists was that they must adjust to the prospect of coalition politics within a decade.

"I am a Liberal Democrat, I could never be anything else," he said after condemning "the politics of tribe" in language Tony Blair might use. "Love this party though I do, I don't believe that just because we wear the same team colours, all that we say is always right and that all others say is always wrong," he said.

The crucial formula that will guide his tactics was to promise "constructive criticism, cajoling and, if necessary, vigorously opposing where the Government is wrong, but working with them where we agree and where it's in the national interest.

"Where we should co-operate we will do so, wholeheartedly. Where we must oppose we will do so unflinchingly ... May we have the power to oppose what we must oppose, the courage to support what we should support, and the wisdom to know the difference," he said.

Labour ministers and officials, who have been angered by Lib Dem criticisms of their health, education and taxation policies this week, were last night privately satisfied that Mr Ashdown had been practising the conciliatory politics he was preaching.

A scornful William Hague said Mr Ashdown had muted his past criticism of Labour to ensure smooth development of his relationship with Mr Blair through the new Lib-Lab cabinet committee. The Tory leader told a party audience in Salisbury: "Paddy Ashdown's idea of constructive opposition is to sell his soul to the Labour Party at the first opportunity."

Mr Ashdown was not falling into that trap. Like many of his senior colleagues in Eastbourne he attacked Labour for promising better schools and hospitals and simultaneously promising to keep to Tory spending plans.

"They couldn't possibly deliver both," he said before challenging the Government to back early British membership of the EU single currency and promise a referendum on it, preferably next year. He was also careful to say Liberal Democrats should avoid simply asking for more money. "Good public services depend on how money is spent, as well as how much," he said.

Invoking what he insisted was "the new spirit of change in Britain", Mr Ashdown scorned the safe option of traditional opposition — "complacency, self-satisfaction" — and told delegates they must use their new self-confidence to be courageous.

Leader comment, page 8

Mother who let son use cannabis faces eviction and sack

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

A WOMAN who allowed her teenage children to smoke cannabis at home faces eviction and the sack from her job. She had let the children smoke at home, she said, because she did not want them to take heroin on the streets as some of their contemporaries were doing.

Jane Wakeman, aged 41, from Utoxeter in Staffordshire, was arrested in April when six police officers raided her home after what they said was a tip-off. Her 15-year-old son was found with a cannabis joint in his hand. Mrs Wakeman was arrested and charged with possession of 1.6 grammes of cannabis and allowing her home to be used for drug-taking.

At Stafford magistrates court last month, she was sentenced to two years' probation for the two offences. The case was reported in the local press. As a result, Mrs Wakeman has been suspended from her job as a receptionist at East Staffordshire council and faces disciplinary proceedings that could result in dismissal. She has worked for the council over a period of 20 years.

She has also been informed that she has one month to quit her home, which is council-owned. The grounds for her eviction are that she allowed the house to be used for drug-taking.

"Heroin is rife here," said Mrs Wakeman yesterday. "Some of my children's schoolfriends had become addicted and when they told me about it I was terrified. I knew cannabis was a lot safer and I would rather have it under my roof."

She said she felt that if the children were at home with their friends they were safer than they would have been on the streets.

Mrs Wakeman said she accepted that she had broken the law and had to be punished, but she now faced the loss of her home and her job for possession of the amount of cannabis over which most police forces merely deliver a caution. She has no previous convictions of any kind.

"The only other people I know who have been evicted over drugs were heroin and cocaine dealers who had been to prison," said Mrs Wakeman. She was uncertain of where she and her children would be able to live after eviction. She is separated from her husband.

Simon Kirkham of Release, the drugs advice agency, said: "This does seem grossly unfair. This is triple jeopardy: she is punished by the court and then with the possibility of losing both her job and her home."

Mr Kirkham said he would have expected such a case to have been punished by a caution or a conditional discharge. There were cases where people were required to leave their homes because of drugs, he said, but the people concerned were either convicted dealers or the subject of a series of complaints by neighbours because of their drug-dealing activities.

The case raises the issue of criminal responsibility for parents who would allow their children to use cannabis at home.

A spokesman for East Staffordshire said it was the council's policy not no comment on such a case because it was regarded as an internal matter.

Mandelson infuriates SNP with secession gaffe

Salmond looks to independence in 10 years after devolution vote

John Arlidge

PETER Mandelson was accused of "ignorance and ineptitude" yesterday after he claimed a Scottish parliament could not order a referendum on independence.

His remarks embarrassed the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, who won a cabinet battle to give an Edinburgh assembly the power to vote for secession.

Speaking on the BBC's Open to Question programme, which will be broadcast later today, the Minister without Portfolio, claimed that a devolved parliament could not order a constitutional plebiscite and would be no more powerful than an English city council. Even if Scottish parliamentarians voted for independence, Westminster would have the power to over-turn the decision, he said.

"The sovereignty of the United Kingdom is absolute," he said. "It would not be open to the Scottish parliament to declare some unilateral independence away from the rest of the United Kingdom. The north-east of England or Liverpool or Manchester can't declare independence and I would not say that Scotland could either."

Asked if a Scottish parliament would have the right to call a referendum on independence. Mr Mandelson replied: "No. No more than people in the North-west or the North-east or the South-east."

His views contradict comments made by Mr Dewar, who agreed not to cap the powers of an Edinburgh assembly in a deal to secure Scottish National Party support for Labour's devolution proposals during the referendum campaign. Mr Dewar said he would be "the last to challenge the sovereignty of the Scottish people or to deny them the right to opt for any solution to the constitutional question which they wished". Erecting constitutional barriers to change would, he said, "be futile and without effect".

On the opening day of their annual conference on the Isle of Bute, SNP leaders seized on Mr Mandelson's remarks, which they said echoed Mr Blair's General Election gaffe when he likened a Scottish parliament to an English parish council. Alex Salmond, SNP leader, said he was "inept and ignorant".

Urging Mr Mandelson not to "butt into other parties' political conferences", Mr Salmond said: "His remarks are insulting and extraordinarily ill-informed. He should stick to sorting out Glasgow council or dealing with his wasteful pet project of the millennium dome."

Earlier, as he opened the most buoyant conference since the SNP was formed 60 years ago, Mr Salmond said the nationalists had "rounded the corner" to independence following the overwhelming devolution victory. After decades in the political wilderness of Westminster, the party could now campaign where it counts: at home.

"The political landscape is now a Scottish landscape. I have not had a better, prouder, more exhilarating moment in politics. We've won. The national cause has won. I am absolutely convinced I will see independence. I have always believed it; now I know it." Ten to 15 years, he predicted, was a "reasonable time-scale".

The nationalists, he said, would continue to co-operate with Labour and the Liberal Democrats while the Scottish parliament was established and the Scotland Bill passes through the Commons. But hostilities would resume in the forthcoming Paisley South by-election and in the first elections to the new parliament in 18 months time. The party would use the conference to develop a "radical and exciting" policy agenda for those elections.

Delegates voted to oppose plans — backed by the Scottish Office — to site the Scottish parliament in Leith. They also called for the establishment of a Scottish broadcasting corporation. They are expected to back a motion to abolish the monarchy and make an independent Scotland a republic.



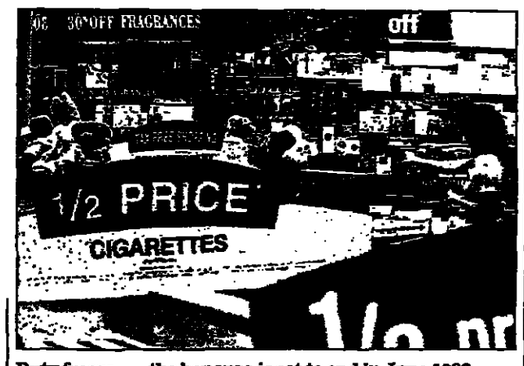
Alex Salmond ... 'The national cause has won'

EU calls time on duty frees

Martin Walker in Brussels

DUTY-FREE sales on ships and flights within the European Union will be axed on schedule in June 1999 to conform with single market rules, despite the most expensive lobbying campaign Brussels has seen, Commissioner Mario Monti said yesterday.

"You were given seven and a half years to prepare for an end of duty-free sales to travellers within the single market. It is high time you used this time constructively, instead of trying to run the clock back," Mr Monti told a conference of the industry in Brussels yesterday.



Duty freeze ... the bonanza is set to end in June 1999

Despite the promise of abolition, the duty-free industry has grown dramatically since its impending closure was announced. In 1991, it amounted to £2.5 billion, rising to £3.75 billion in 1995, and is expected to top £4 billion this year. More than half the turnover, and almost two-thirds of the profits, from duty-free sales come from alcohol and tobacco.

The industry has lobbied Euro-MPs and officials with dire warnings of job losses, along with increased fares for ferries and flights — and even the closure of some routes — if the abolition takes effect. Local petitions have been organised along the Channel coast with lobbies of British, French and Belgian MPs, to claim that the cross-Channel ferry industry could collapse without the benefit of duty-free sales.

Mr Monti was unmoved, arguing that the Channel tunnel trains could not sell duty-free products (although the stations do), and that the tax avoidance cost the European budget some £1.4 billion a year. This, which the Commission calls "a kind of subsidy to the duty-free industry", is twice as much as the EU proposes to spend on humanitarian aid this year.

"This 2 billion ecu subsidy, which amounts to state aid for ferries, airlines and airports, is money that governments could otherwise spend on other areas or save by reducing taxation," the Commission said in a sharply worded paper yesterday.

However, the Commission hinted that where particular routes or border communities were at risk from the end of the duty-free trade, Brussels might intervene.

Mr Monti said: "The decision is not going to be changed. The time has come for the airlines, airports and ferry operators, as well as suppliers of tobacco and alcohol products, to face up to reality and invest their money wisely to get ready for 1999."

Head and heart fuse into the language of the bizarre

Review

Michael Billington

Blue Heart
Royal Court Downstairs

EXPERIMENT and emotion: they rarely go together. But the great thing about Caryl Churchill's Blue Heart, co-produced by Out of Joint and the Royal Court, is that it is made up of two subtly interlocking works which play with theatrical form while saying something fascinating about the nature of language, identity and disintegrating family life.

Heart's Desire is the more instantly accessible. A married couple await, with the husband's sister, the return of their daughter from Australia: each time the action starts, it is halted and then replayed with increasingly wild variations. It is a bizarrely funny idea with echoes of Ionesco, Beckett, Ayckbourn and even an old West End comedy called Big Bad Mouse in which Jimmy Edwards and Eric Sykes used to stop the action and spool back to the beginning every time a latecomer appeared.

But Churchill is not just out to make us laugh. Each time the action is replayed we become aware of the suppurating tensions within the family. It is as if the act of waiting itself releases repressed fears: the married couple's mutual hatred, the sister-in-law's terror of death, and the husband's dream of self-cannibalism leap unbidden to the surface. It is a fiendishly clever and surreal play, timed to perfection, in Max Stafford-Clark's production by Bernard Gallagher, Valerie Lilley and Mary McLeod.

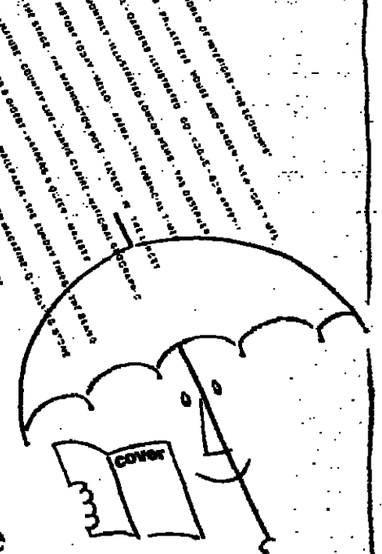
Its full import only becomes clear, however, when you see the second play, Blue Kettle. Here we watch a 40-year-old man, Derek, conning a series of vulnerable women into believing he is their long-lost son. But what makes the play so strange is that the words "blue" and "kettle" increasingly take the place of nouns, verbs and adverbs until by the end the characters are conversing in a foreshortened language consisting only of fragmented consonants.

Churchill is clearly suggesting, in line with her recent experiments with physical theatre, that emotion can exist independently of slippery, elusive language. But she allies the formal experiment to a real human dilemma: Derek, whose mother is in a geriatric ward, is driven by a compulsive need for maternal substitutes. And when you put the plays together what comes across is the disintegration not just of language but of family life itself: we are into the idea of what Eliot calls two people who do not understand each other "breeding children whom they do not understand and who will never understand them".

You can argue with Churchill's ideas. But she expresses them with compressed brilliance in two plays that last no more than 40 minutes each. And Stafford-Clark's production stirs up profound emotions, not least in the second play with Jason Watkins as the damaged son and Eve Pearce and Anna Wing amongst the quintet of frustrated mothers. Head and heart, for once in the theatre, work together in perfect synchronism.

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Emanuel finds shining knight



Fashioning an alliance . . . Elizabeth Emanuel yesterday with her new business partner, Shami Ahmed, whom she calls her 'knight in shining armour' PHOTOGRAPH: BEN CURTIS

Joe Bloggs steps on to catwalk

Jeans king bails out top designer in marriage of haute couture and street style

Julia Finch

THE self-made rag-trade millionaire who built the Joe Bloggs jeans brand yesterday rescued haute couture designer Elizabeth Emanuel from bankruptcy.

Ms Emanuel, who found instant worldwide fame in 1981 after designing the wedding dress of Diana, Princess of Wales, was within two days of financial collapse when 34-year-old jeans tycoon Shami Ahmed agreed to bail her out. Last night she described him as her "knight in shining armour"; he sees her as offering him the chance to rival Chanel.

The marriage of haute couture and street style — the first such link in the history of British fashion — was prompted by last month's collapse of the clothing import group Hamlet, which was also Ms Emanuel's financial backer.

The designer had just returned from a successful sales trip to the US, where she had signed up stores including Saks Fifth Avenue, and was planning her first London catwalk show in 10 years when Hamlet went bust owing £40 million.

The race was then on to find another backer to ensure that her design studio and West End boutique could continue. "We were inundated with offers — from ordinary people offering to put up the odd thousand pounds, to American companies. But we needed big money and marketing expertise," said Ms Emanuel yesterday.

She wrote to potential investors asking for help, including one to Joe Bloggs. "I wrote to Shami two weeks ago because I had read he was very successful and entrepreneurial. He asked me to send a business plan, but we didn't have time for all that. So I just went to see him.

"Shami is an extremely shrewd businessman and can clearly see the tremendous potential in the brand. He is enormously successful and we are very lucky to have access to his vast financial resources to ensure the ongoing success of the company."

Ms Emanuel said that she would now concentrate on designing, while Mr Ahmed would supervise marketing, distribution and growth. Mr Ahmed's wife, Samina, whom he married eight months ago, will also join the Emanuel business.

Mr Ahmed, who has an estimated fortune of £55 million, said he envisages no problems in running one company best known for teenage clubwear, which advertises its wares on football pitch hoardings, and another built around a London designer who makes ballgowns to measure for the capital's wealthiest women.

"We are street fashion and she is couture. But I am a businessman and Elizabeth Emanuel is a big brand worldwide and a big asset."

The Manchester-based businessman added: "I have been looking for a British designer who needs backing for some time. It is a shame that so many British names have had to go to France and Italy to get backing. I believe it is vitally important to invest in the creativity that Britain produces to ensure that designer talent stays in this country."

He now has big plans for the Emanuel label. "I intend to prove that you can make money and build a business out of this sort of fashion and show it is not all just fancy catwalks and fashion shows," he said.

Ms Emanuel said Mr Ahmed had committed more than £1 million to the business for the coming year, and then more cash as it is required for expansion.

His plans include more affordable ranges of clothing, perfumes and accessories that will be stocked in top department stores and Emanuel shops worldwide. Mr Ahmed said the brand he most wanted to emulate was Chanel.



Rag trade to riches . . . Elizabeth Emanuel found fame by designing Diana's wedding dress. Now the founder of Joe Bloggs has big plans for the label

Ahmed

- Came to UK from Pakistan aged two. First taste of business helping parents on Burnley market stall.
- Principal buyer in father's wholesale clothing business at age 14.
- Left school at 16 with no qualifications.
- Launched Joe Bloggs in 1986.
- Company now has turnover of more than £50 million. Joe Bloggs only UK company to appear in British top 10 for jeans brands.
- Addressed Tory party conference two years ago. Recently joined Labour's welfare-to-work taskforce.

Emanuel

- Now 44, sprang to fame with then husband David 16 years ago when commissioned by Lady Diana Spencer to design her wedding dress — now in Victoria and Albert Museum.
- Emanuels married in 1975 when both fashion students. Straight into business in smart Mayfair boutique, with backing from Elizabeth's father.
- Separated in 1990. Business went into voluntary liquidation the same year.
- Teamed up with east London garment importer Hamlet in April 1996, opening showcase shop in central London. Hamlet went bust last month.

Press gets tough new privacy code

Kamal Ahmed
Media Correspondent

DRAMATIC changes to the regulatory code which controls the way newspapers cover stories will be announced today.

Lord Wakeham, the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC), will demand stronger action on privacy, harassment and cheque book journalism.

He will also say that newspapers will have to prove an over-riding public interest to defend intrusions into people's private affairs.

At a final meeting of the PCC to discuss the changes yesterday, Lord Wakeham said he wanted to see firm action and that he expected newspapers to endorse his new rules "from day one".

He said there was a consensus that action needed to be taken following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

"No doubt it will be a pretty dramatic package of improvements," Lord Wakeham said after the meeting.

Commission members were told that children up to the age of 18 would be brought under the code's protection and that money should not be paid to juveniles for information.

Original proposals that the code could protect young adults up to the age of 21 are expected to be dropped. Suggestions that newspapers which break the code would have to donate a sum to charity have also been abandoned as unworkable.

The new code will stipulate that editors will have to negotiate with the PCC over where the commission's decisions on code transgressions are published. For serious breaches of the code, Lord Wakeham will press for adjudications to be published on the front page.

Controls on the use of paparazzi pictures will also be announced. Editors will be expected to prove the provenance of pictures they use and the circumstances in which they were taken.

"Ignorance will no longer be a defence," one senior source said.

Picture agencies will also be brought under the control of the code.

It is also expected that rules on privacy will be extended to include not only people's homes but other areas where privacy can reasonably be expected, such as restaurants and churches.

On harassment, Lord Wakeham will announce new controls on "doorstepping" where groups of reporters and camera crews wait outside somebody's house to try to get an interview.

He is particularly concerned about the actions of television camera crews in such circumstances.

Speaking after yesterday's meeting, Sir David English, the editor-in-chief of Associated Newspapers and chairman of the commission's code committee, said there was still "a lot of work to be done" before the final wording of the code could be ratified.

John Witherow, the editor of the Sunday Times and member of the PCC, said there was broad support among newspaper editors for Lord Wakeham's proposals.

"He has some very good proposals which I think the industry will accept," Mr Witherow said.

"But it is important that the public interest defence is there so that wrongdoing is exposed."

Maths lessons fail to add up

Rebecca Smithers
Education Correspondent

TEACHERS were yesterday criticised for "confused and confusing" teaching of mathematics in primary schools, which had led to many children having anxieties about the subject and given them a poor grasp of basic mental arithmetic.

Standards of mathematics teaching were found to be patchy, according to the Ofsted report, and meant that English children were in danger of slipping further down the international league table of numeracy standards.

Among the findings were significant variations in classroom management, with teachers holding inappropriate qualifications and experience. Too many teachers were failing to stretch pupils because they knew too little maths themselves.

Ofsted examined the teaching of mathematics to seven and 11-year-olds in 45 schools in three local education authorities — Greenwich and Newham in London, and Knowsley in Merseyside. It concluded that variations in the quality of teaching had led to an "unacceptably wide" achievement of pupils across each area.

The Chief Inspector of Schools, Chris Woodhead, acknowledged that the report had found evidence of excellent teaching in some schools, and that the Government was on course to meeting its national numeracy target. This requires that by the time of national tests for 11-year-olds in 2002, 75 per cent of 11-year-olds should be reaching the standards expected for their age in maths. The results for 1997, due out today, are expected to show a marked improvement on last year's figure of 54 per cent.

But Mr Woodhead said performance standards in English schools were so far behind competitor countries — 17th out of 28 in recent tests — that expectations had to be constantly reviewed.

School standards minister Stephen Byers welcomed the report.

Maths tests

Average achievement, 9-year-olds

Singapore	625
Korea	611
Japan	597
Hong Kong	587
Netherlands	577
Czech Rep.	567
Austria	559
Slovenia	552
Ireland	550
Hungary	548
Australia	546
United States	545
Canada	532
Israel	531
Latvia	525
Scotland	520
England	513
Cyprus	502
Norway	502
New Zealand	499

Source: TIMSS

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The Guardian Thursday September 25 1997



THE EVIDENCE

'Dibi took hold of a pillow which was lying on the ground and put that pillow on Yvonne's face in order to prevent her from crying and that has caused her death'

THE RETRACTION

'I am 100 per cent positive I am very close to being raped. I agree to write a statement. He tells me that if I cooperate I will be home in 2-3 weeks'

The confessions analysed

Criminal lawyer finds unanswered questions in statements of two nurses

Michael Fisher, one of Britain's most experienced criminal lawyers, who has acted as defence solicitor in many major cases including numerous murder trials, was asked by the Guardian to analyse the confessions made by Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry. Below each of the women's confessions he tells Duncan Campbell his findings.

THE following is an edited version of the text of Lucille McLauchlan's initial confession, which was presented in court.

I being fully competent hereby confess voluntarily as follows: On December 11 1996 at 1.00am, *while I was in my* room, I received a telephone call from the deceased, Yvonne Gilford, of Australian nationality, who lived in apartment No. 3a, building No. 44, King Fahd Military hospital of Dhahran, who asked me to visit her in her apartment and informed me that Deborah Parry "Dibi", of British nationality, was also there. It appeared to me that she was confused, and I told her that it was already late. However, I noticed that she was irritated and, because of that, I left my building and went to her apartment in the neighbouring building. Dibi was there and they were discussing their lesbian relationship which was not as active as it had been. She told me that Dibi refused to leave Yvonne's apartment. They asked me to intervene and assist them in solving the problem. We sat and talked about the problem until 4:45am when both of them got upset. Consequently, Dibi took a metal kettle which was there on the kitchen table. There



Why is there is no explanation for having given a very different version when she first 'confessed'?

was no water in that kettle. She threw the kettle at Yvonne. The kettle fell at Yvonne's face. Yvonne was hurt and fell down. Dibi kicked her on the face. While the victim was lying on the ground, Dibi once again entered the kitchen and fetched a kitchen knife of the type used for slicing bread.

Meanwhile, Yvonne stood up and Dibi stabbed her on the chest whereupon Yvonne fell again on to the ground. Thereafter, Dibi sat on her and stabbed her several times on her neck and back (before Yvonne was hit by the kettle, Yvonne pushed Dibi who fell on a green small table and consequently got hurt). Thereafter, Dibi took hold of a pillow which was lying on the ground and put that pillow on Yvonne's face in order to prevent her from crying and that has caused her death. I have witnessed that event without doing anything.

Thereafter, Dibi left the victim's body. I was terrified and told Dibi that if Yvonne was able to talk to anybody we would be discovered. Dibi was less irritated than me and said: "Now we have to clean the place".

She entered the kitchen and started washing the knife. Thereafter, she dried that knife and placed it either in a drawer in the kitchen or on the kitchen table. Then she entered the bathroom, collected a white towel and cleaned the blood on her hands. She also used the towel in cleaning the knife and the metal kettle.

Then I took a wet piece of cloth which was lying on the washing machine, and cleaned the blood on my left hand. Thereafter, I and Dibi went to my flat and cleaned the traces of blood which appeared on our clothes — I remained in my flat and Dibi went to her flat and each of us took a bath and washed our clothes in order to remove any traces of blood.

Two days later, Dibi informed me that she had in her possession Yvonne's automatic teller machine card and *she knew the secret number* assigned for that card. Dibi did not tell me how she came to know that secret number. She suggested to me to go and withdraw money from Yvonne's account. I told her that we might be discovered by the police. She said that was impossible. We actually went on three consecutive days and withdrew on each time SR 5,000. The first time and the second time, it was me who withdrew the money.

Dibi withdrew on the third time. On the fourth time which was the last, I withdrew SR 5,000, whereupon I was caught by the police while I was there at the bank. I remitted some of the amounts which we have obtained to my account in Britain and I sent part of it by mail to my mother in Britain. The reasons for committing the crime is that Dibi loved Yvonne and did not want anybody else to share her that love. I have not reported the crime because I was terrified, and I hereby sign this confession.

Analysis

Initially she places the blame totally on her co-defendant. What we don't know is whether either of them or both of them had been told that the other was putting the blame on them or had been shown the other's statements. One gets the impression of someone going backwards and forwards showing documents.

In the first alleged confession she states: "Dibi (Deborah) was there and they were discussing their lesbian relationship which was not as active as it had been."

This does not ring true. If your relationship with your wife is not going very well you would not say that it was "not as active as it had been." It indicates a very mechanical view of a sexual relationship which makes it sound much more the sort of thing that a man might say about a lesbian relationship because he could only conceive of it in sexual or mechanical terms.

In her subsequent handwritten confession, she confesses to taking a much more active part in the murder. She says "I placed a pillow over her mouth to stop her making a noise."

On the following page of the confession, she has written in the margin: "I must add that I held the cushion over Yvonne's face until she was suffocated." This is written in small letters down the margin rather than as part of the rest of the alleged confession.

I find that utterly extraordinary. It appears to have her fingerprint and signature on the page and one would want to know the circumstances in which she made the confession.

Of course, it could be that she wanted to tell the truth and get it off her chest but in that case you wonder why there is no explanation as to why she had already given a very different version when she first "confessed."

Obviously, sometimes people do confess but they would normally give an explanation as to why they had originally told a very different story. I would want to know what sort of deals might have been offered.

THE following is an edited version of Deborah Parry's initial confession:





McLauchlan retraction

APPROACHED at Arab National Bank at approximately 08.30. Three men in gutras and thobes and a man in a trousers and jacket. Told that I was going with them and put in car. Told to shut my mouth in car when I asked what was going on. Taken to Dhahran police station.

The police talked in Arabic. No interpreter present. Major X talked English well. He is the policeman who communicated with me. Handcuffs were placed on me.

Hamed told me that I had Yvonne's bank card and showed me my handbag which had been taken off me outside the bank . . . He took a green bank card out of my handbag and 5,000 SR. He told me I was a thief and a harlot and he knew all about me. I told them I at no time had I had Yvonne's bank card and I did not have 5,000 SR in my wallet. Major X slapped my face and sat next to me with his hand on my thigh. He told me I would write a statement saying I stole Yvonne's bank card after Debbie killed her. He told me if I refused I would be *hit. I refused and stated he* could not do this. Major X said he could do anything he wanted. The police were the law in Saudi Arabia and Islam ruled and British was trash.

Major X pulls me off the chair and I am told to take my abaya off. I refused. I am slapped several times . . . by Hamed. Another policeman pulls my hair from behind. I have ankle chains on. I am not allowed to sit down.

I am refused permission to have a drink or use the toilet. Told if I write a statement I can sit down and use the toilet. They stamp on my feet every 10-15 minutes. Major X and another policeman feel and poke my *breasts. Colonel Y puts his* hands between my legs and laughs when I start crying. Comments are continuously made about how pretty I am and would I like to have a policeman's baby.

My hands feel very swollen and also my ankles are very swollen. I have been awake for approximately 19 hours. I am asked details about my sex life and informed that one of the policemen is also a doctor and if I do not write a statement which Major X tells me to write I will be taken to another room . . . with this *policeman and stripped. He* would also have sex with me and all the rest of the policemen take it in turns to rape me. Major X is standing against me when he states this and it is very obvious he has an erection. I wet myself.

I am told to remove my trousers and panties . . . One of the policemen kneels between my legs and states via Major X he wants me to give him oral sex. I have had enough as I am 100 per cent positive I am very close to being raped. I agree to write a statement.

He tells me over and over again that if I cooperate I will be home in 2-3 weeks.

When the statement is *completed I am warned very* bluntly if I say anything to the judge I will be taken back to Dhahran police station and the treatment will be 100 times worse than before. I have been awake for 32 hours.

I am refused legal advice and contact with my family.

This is why I did not tell the court at the time of the investigation my statement was lies. I am telling the truth now. Please do not punish me for being afraid.

Parry retraction

APPROACHED in Al-Shola mall by a man in a thobe and told to come to him. Taken to Dhahran police station.

I was informed that I had killed Yvonne as they said that they knew I was having a lesbian relationship with her and that I was a very bad person. I was sobbing with fear at this point . . . Yvonne was my friend and colleague. They kept on telling me to "shut up" and that I was "British trash" and was a killer.

Major X kept on coming in and out of the room and pulling my hair and slap*ping my face, calling me a* "son of a bitch".

I was told to remove my abaya at this point and the police continually touched my breasts and private parts. One of the policemen, whilst kneeling in front of me with his hands on my thighs, was licking his lips and asking "who initiated the sex with you and your girlfriend Yvonne?"

I kept on saying that I was not a lesbian and had boyfriends. All this time they were rubbing my thighs; I thought that I would be raped by them all; I was so *frightened as they undid* some of my skirt and touched my skin on my legs.

I was having my hair pulled also. The police were laughing at me, saying "You are a British trash, you have killed other people." It was so intimidating to be surrounded by these men so close to me. I needed a drink as I could hardly talk with such a dry mouth. They said no, not until you say that you killed her. I said I did not kill her, she is a friend.

I was shown a piece of paper that had mine and Lucy's ID number on it and by the side of it guards had said that we had been turned back at the security gate . . . I then realised that *no matter what I said or did* I was going to be implicated in Yvonne's death.

The questioning and physical, mental and sexual abuse seemed to go on for hours and hours. At this time I still say I will not lie and say I had committed a crime when I had not.

I continuously asked for legal advice or the British Embassy but was told that the police in Saudi Arabia are the law, that British is trash and Islam rules.

When I was eventually allowed to use a toilet I had to leave the door open and a *man standing and watching* me as I passed urine. I was not treated like a human being, even made to pass faeces as I was watched.

My whole body was burning inside with fear. Again and again I was promised that I would be home in two weeks if I co-operated.

I would still not write as they asked me to so they made me stand against a wall with my hands behind my back . . . Lucy walked into the room and said: "Debbie stabbed Yvonne in the neck, back and chest."

At approximately 0130 hours I was pushed into a police car and taken to Damman central prison. Put into solitary cell.

20 December 1996. Taken back to Dhahran police station. I am informed if I do not co-operate and write a statement the treatment would be even worse. I cannot take any more so I agree to write whatever the police wanted me to even though it was all lies.

Please remember I was alone, very, very frightened and desperate to go home to my family. This is a true statement of my treatment at Dhahran police station.

I hereby admit and confess that on the night of 11/12/1996 at 2.00am, Yvonne telephoned Lucille McLauchlan and requested her to come to a room. I was with her at that time. Yvonne requested me to have lesbian relationship with her. I refused her request. When Lucille came to us I was crying because of the request. As a result of my refusal, Yvonne was nervous. Lucille tried to cool down the situation. But Yvonne also requested Lucille to have lesbian relationship with her. Lucille also refused her proposal. Lucille slapped Yvonne on her face. Yvonne fell on a small green table which was in the room and as a result the table was broken. Yvonne got up and pushed me away and as a result thereof my back collided against the chair. Meanwhile, all of us were shouting. I took a metal jug from the table and threw it towards Yvonne. The jug hit the left side of her head. Yvonne fell as a result of the hit. She got up and went to the kitchen and brought a knife (the bread knife) from the drawer of the kitchen. A fight took place. Yvonne was brutally excited and she was trying to stab us with the knife. I pushed her towards the bed, she fell on the bed and was injured by the knife. She got up again and tried to stab us by the knife. Again she fell and injured herself by the knife in her thigh. Lucille and myself tried to push Yvonne towards the bed. At that time I was slightly injured in my left hand by the knife which was in the hand of Yvonne. Also Lucille was injured in her right thigh by the knife which was in the hand of Yvonne. When we pushed her again towards the bed the knife fell from her hand. Lucille took the knife and stabbed Yvonne on her back. Also I took the knife and stabbed Yvonne. I cannot remember the number of stabs. This happened within a short time. We were very confused and scared. All this happened while we were trying to defend ourselves from Yvonne. As a result of the fighting and hitting, there was blood on the ground and the bed. We requested Yvonne to stop. Time was late when she died. I put my finger on her neck. There was no pulse. Lucille and myself laid her on the ground to help her but she was already dead. While we were cleaning the room and the bed, a small pillow fell on the face of Yvonne. We did not use that pillow to smother her. After that I picked up the knife and washed the blood. Lucille dried the knife with a piece of cloth. Lucille put the knife in the drawer of the kitchen. Using the kitchen washer we washed the blood off our hands. We arranged the bed. We quickly departed to my room. We sat together speaking for approximately one hour in my room, say up



It reads almost like a male-imagined version of what happened. It is very unrealistic

to 3.00 or 3.30am. I prepared myself to go to work in the morning. Lucille was free and therefore she washed my clothes and her clothes.

The motive behind the quarrel and fighting that caused the death of Yvonne was her request to have lesbian relationship with me and Lucille. I know nothing about the banking card of the deceased. What I know is that you told me that you have found the card with Lucille using the same in one of the bank's teller in Al Khobar. We went together to Al Khobar and I departed her when we left the taxi. Lucille went to the bank and I entered the market. I confess that the cause of the death of Yvonne Gilford, of Australian nationality, was what I explained above. Before going out of the room I was certain that she was dead. Except the deceased, Lucille and myself there was nobody else inside the room during the event.

Analysis

I find this whole confession statement very odd indeed. Some of it reads almost like a soft porn script. She starts off by saying: "I was crying because of the request of Yvonne to have lesbian relationship with me . . . Yvonne also requested Lucille to have lesbian relationship with her."

It is a translation so it may be that having been translated from English into Arabic it has been translated back into English again and that is one of the reasons it does not ring true, but it does come over as very artificial. It reads almost like a male imagined version of what happened. It is very unrealistic.

She talks about a 'metal jug' in the first confession but about a 'kettle' in the second. Again, this may be because of confusion over translation but the versions differ very sharply on similar details which must throw doubts over it.

The confession says "Lucille slapped Yvonne on her face. Yvonne fell on a small green table which was in the room and as a result thereof the table was broken."

This also puts some of the blame on her co-defendant.

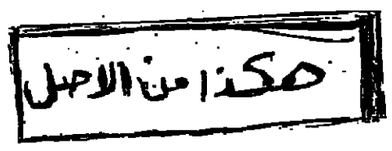
In her later handwritten confession, she says that she had a relationship with Yvonne Gifford but in the first statement, she says that Yvonne had made advances on her. In the later handwritten version, as with McLachlan's handwritten version, the story changes. She says of the stabbing: "I took a bread knife from the kitchen drawer and stabbed Yvonne." But she adds: "Yvonne was hurt but still alive. Lucille McGloughlin (sic) took a pink floral cushion and pressed it onto Yvonne Gilford's face until she stopped breathing."

Again, as with McLachlan's, it is not a document of someone who wants just to get it off their chest. There is no explanation as to why a new version is being given. It is very odd.

General comments:
One would want to question any witnesses to the alleged confessions. This would include the interrogators, the interpreters and any independent witnesses to see whether or not there had been any pressure put on the two women. In the Guildford Four case, Paul Hill always claimed that he had had a gun pointed at him through the cell door. He had told his lawyer about it at the time but it wasn't until 16 years later that he was believed. So sometimes those claims of having been oppressed into making a statement can be true.

Also we would want to know whether they had been told that the other one was making statements against them. (This was one of the grounds on which the successful Bridgewater Four appeal was based when it became clear that Pat Molloy only made his incriminating statements after being shown a forged confession allegedly made by Vincent Hickey.)

On the documents that I have seen I would say that the convictions are very unsatisfactory.



هكذا من الأصل

Jury clears ex-boxer of grant fraud

Stuart Millar

TERRY Marsh, the former world welterweight boxing champion, yesterday threatened legal action against a local education authority over "malicious" allegations that he withheld information on a student grant application form.

A jury at Southwark crown court took only 15 minutes yesterday to clear the former boxer turned fireman of furnishing false information to obtain almost £10,000 of student funding he was not entitled to.

Outside the court, Marsh, aged 39, said he was preparing a report against Tower Hamlets council in east London for the local government ombudsman, complaining that news of the discrepancy in his application form was leaked to the Daily Mirror newspaper before he had been questioned by police.

He was also considering bringing a civil case against the council for a breach of confidentiality which he claims was politically motivated because it forced him to step down as the Liberal Democrat general election candidate in his home town of Basildon.

"If they contacted me as opposed to contacting a newspaper then a simple investigation could have been put, and then it would not have been necessary for it to go as far as it has. The best way I thought of solving it was to expose the maliciousness of it by having my day in court."

Yesterday's verdict marked the second time Marsh, who retired from the ring after being diagnosed as epileptic, has been acquitted. He was cleared of the attempted murder of his former manager, Frank Warren, in 1987, after spending 10 months in jail on remand.

In jail, he started studying for a degree. After his acquittal, he obtained a BA honours degree in politics and government, funded by Essex county council, from London Guildhall university.

In court, the prosecution alleged that he had deliberately concealed this qualification and the Essex funding from Tower Hamlets council when he applied to it for a grant to study for a science degree in June 1995.

The discrepancy was discovered 18 months later after his selection as a Liberal Democrat candidate when Tower Hamlets staff saw a BBC News interview in which he spoke about his politics degree.

But he told the jury that he had honestly believed he was entitled to the money. He had not thought it necessary to mention his degree when completing the application form, or to record the fact he had received financial support from another local authority.



Terry Marsh: called allegations malicious

'It is a male world dominated by men telling male jokes. Not being one of the boys made it intimidating'

FA accused of barring woman's progress

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

A SOCCER coach launched a sex discrimination claim against the Football Association yesterday, alleging it refused her an advanced coaching licence because she was a woman.

Vanessa Hardwick, aged 32, told the London North industrial tribunal that former players from Premiership clubs received lower marks than her on the two-week advanced course but still passed.

Ms Hardwick, a physical education teacher from Ickenham, west London, attacked course leaders for making her feel out of place in "a world run by men for men". She claims she was unfairly denied a career in coaching at an advanced level after twice failing the course.

She said: "It is a male world dominated by men telling male jokes and I was excluded. The course was physically and emotionally demanding and not being one of the boys made it more intimidating and stressful — not being in with innuendoes and jokes.

"I felt I had low self-esteem and confidence when I asked a question. I suffered because I was assessed on men's play. I was assessed on the ability to coach men, not women, and that put me at a disadvantage.

"My ambition is to coach at the highest level but in order to do so I need to achieve the advanced licence."

Ms Hardwick is an FA county coach for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire and plays for Burnham Ladies, but she hopes to coach in the United States. She is one of only three women to hold an intermediate licence for coaching, the second highest qualification available, which she was awarded in 1995.

She completed the two-week advanced course at Lilleshall National Sports Council training centre twice, in 1995 and 1996, but says assessors rated her coaching skills "naive and schoolboy-like".

"I felt and still feel humiliated by the failure, and the sense of humiliation is all the worse by the broadcast of the results to all my colleagues. The worst thing is the lack of women coaches and the state of the women's game. Women are not encouraged enough at the lower levels."

A spokeswoman for the Equal Opportunities Commission, which is backing the claim, said: "The selection tests appear to lack transparency and have scope for subjective judgments."

The commission's chairwoman, Kamlesh Bahl, said: "We want to see fair play. We want women to have the same opportunity to participate in sport as men. Historical prejudice should not be allowed to deny women the chance to succeed."

For the FA, Elizabeth Slade QC, said: "The pool of football coaches has been and probably will be for some time predominantly male. It is not surprising, Ms Hardwick, that you were coached by men.

"The FA has been anxious to involve women in football and active steps were taken for a women-only prep course for the advanced coaching course but it was scrapped because there was insufficient interest.

"Those who go on this course want to coach football at a very high level; that includes coaching in the Premiership and for a national team. In order to obtain that licence, the highest standard of skill in practice needs to be demonstrated."

The hearing continues.



Vanessa Hardwick outside the hearing yesterday: 'The worst thing is the lack of women coaches' PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEASER

Courts 'deplore' Brummie accent

Derek Brown

IT MAY not be a crime to speak with a Birmingham accent, but innocent Brummies could still find themselves in deep legal trouble, according to researchers.

Their tentative finding is that defendants with Brummie accents are more than twice as likely to be convicted than those with standard English speech.

Now the researchers, from Worcester college of higher education, want to establish whether defendants with other regional accents could be similarly disadvantaged.

Three psychology lecturers hired actors to play suspects being interviewed by police. Their alleged crimes involved assault and cheque fraud.

They recorded the roles in both Brummie and standard English voices, and the tapes were played to a "jury" of 119 students. The verdict was clear. As well as being more than twice as likely to be convicted, "the Brummie suspect was regarded as less intelligent, more likely to be poor and working class, and less socially competent," said Berenice Mahoney, who led the study.

The bias against Brummie was as evident in the white collar offence of cheque fraud as in the blue collar assault case.

The researchers were not surprised by the evidence of a prejudice well established by previous research. What intrigued them was the extent to which that prejudice could influence a decision as important as criminal guilt.

As a preliminary study, the results should be treated with caution, said Dr Mahoney. "But it would be naive of us to think this is not happening with magistrates, police officers and jurors."

Another of her team, John Dixon, said there was already a mass of evidence indicating that job seekers and others could be disadvantaged by regional accents — or rather by others' perceptions of those accents.

"We are not saying that Brummies are more likely to be guilty," he said. "We are drawing attention to just one aspect of the perception of accents."

The research is to be presented at a British Psychological Society meeting in Cambridge next week.

Doctor accused of misconduct over removal of ovaries

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

A LEADING Harley Street gynaecologist who removed a patient's ovaries without her permission, triggering her menopause when she was only 35, was accused of serious professional misconduct at the General Medical Council yesterday.

The professional conduct committee was told that John Studd, of Maida Vale, north London, not only took out Jacqueline Bartley's ovaries without her consent but failed to tell her he had done so and had inserted hormone replacement pellets.

She learned the truth when she noticed a charge for HRT on her private hospital bill and raised it with her GP, the committee heard.

Mr Studd, who apart from his private practice is a consultant at Chelsea and Westminster hospital, is a member of the council of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and leading advocate of hormone replacement therapy in Britain.

He operated on Mrs Bartley, of Peckham, south-east London, at the Lister private hospital in central London in July 1992, after she was admitted with stress incontinence — difficulty holding urine when coughing, sneezing or laughing. Mrs Bartley, a primary school teacher and mother of three, also consented to a hysterectomy.

Rosalind Foster, barrister to the council, said Mr Studd's failure to consult her struck "at the very heart of the doctor/patient relationship".

Mr Studd acknowledged that he was "no stranger to medical controversy" but said he had exercised his clinical judgment after he discovered during the operation that Mrs Bartley had endometriosis — tissue from the lining of the womb growing over the ovaries.

Miss Foster said the surgeon was under a duty to consult the patient before removing her ovaries and inserting hormone replacement pellets.

"Mrs Bartley may, at the time of the operation, have finished having her family, but she was only 35 and you may think it was bound to have physical as well as mental repercussions. On any basis she was not suffering from a life-threatening condition justifying removal of her ovaries without her consent."

Mr Studd admits the removal of the ovaries and insertion of the pellets without her consent. He denies there was insufficient medical or surgical justification to do so and failing to inform her of what he had done.

Miss Foster said Mr Studd had admitted negligence during civil proceedings in the High Court and had been found guilty of "battery". In July 1995 Mrs Bartley accepted £32,500 damages in an out of court settlement.

Miss Foster said specimens showed no evidence of endometriosis or anything else to justify removal of the ovaries.

Mrs Bartley was "astonished and upset" when she took the bill to her GP and found Mr Studd had removed her ovaries. She went to see him in a furious temper, and he apologised for "bad communication".

Mrs Bartley told the committee that Mr Studd's unauthorised actions "left me feeling like a piece of meat".

The committee is expected to give a ruling tomorrow.



John Studd ... 'failed to consult patient'



Jacqueline Bartley: 'saw HRT charge on bill'

Tribute to last of the Fleet Street giants

THE columnist and editor, Sir John Junor — sage of Auchtermuchty and last monster of a now extinct Fleet Street — was honoured yesterday at a memorial service which caught the flavour of both far-distanced parishes, writes John Ezard.

In youth he was eager for a political career which might with luck have qualified him for a Westminster Abbey farewell. Instead the press magnate Lord Beaverbrook promised "to set a golden crown upon your head". It turned out to be the editorship for 32 years of the Sunday Express. This qualified him for a send-off at St Bride's, up a side road from the old, boarded and decaying Express building in Fleet Street.

Lord Rothermere, chairman of the Mail on Sunday — for whom Junor wrote during his last seven years — praised his "loathing of phoniness and conceit".

Sir John himself was not lacking in conceit about his renown for catchphrases like "Never trust a bearded man", "Pass the sickbag, Alice" (an insult first delivered to an Express canteen assistant) and "Only poofs drink white wine".

A piper played the congregation in, and the first music was the Skye Boat Song.



Journalist William Deedes and Sir Denis Thatcher at St Bride's PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Parades body re-vamp to bring Unionists into talks

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

THE Government is ready to overhaul the Parades Commission, the independent body set up to rule on marching policies in Northern Ireland, as part of a deal to secure Unionists' participation in all-party talks.

In another development, David Trimble's party is thought to have won the appointment of General John de Chastelain, one of the three talks chairmen and its favoured candidate, to lead the body that will oversee the decommissioning of terrorist weapons. He was opposed by the nationalist parties and Dublin.

The procedural motion to move the gridlocked agenda on for the first time since July of last year seeks to reassure the Unionists that decommissioning remains an aim of both the British and Irish governments. But it is still a long way removed from the initial Unionist demand that decommissioning must take place before talks begin.

The Unionists were claiming victory in having the principle of consent written into the motion. But it is understood that it does not define consent in a Northern Ireland context. That fudge allows Sinn Fein to stay aboard.

Any substantive talks next week would address three sets of relationships: the internal arrangement in Northern Ireland, that between Northern Ireland and the Republic — the most problematic — and the links between London and Dublin.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, was expected to dismiss the Ulster Unionists' motion demanding Sinn Fein's exclusion from the talks. But the concessions Mr Trimble can claim help the Unionists to stay in negotiation without loss of face.

The Ulster Unionists wanted Sinn Fein kicked out because of the recent IRA repudiation of the all-important Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence. They believe the IRA was implicated in last week's bombing at Markethill, the Unionist village in Co Armagh.

But it is the changes intended for the Parades Commission which will prove most controversial. Most marches in Northern Ireland are by Orangemen, and so the body is viewed with hostility by Unionists.

They are understood to have won a move radically to alter its remit, and the body will now be charged with ruling on traditional Roman Catholic events that might cause offence to Protestants. The body is likely to be re-named.

News in brief

Field answers critics over welfare reform

THE Welfare Reform Minister, Frank Field, yesterday squared up to critics of his review of the benefits system but admitted he would not be proposing a "big bang" shake-up of the welfare state.

Under pressure of a mounting whispering campaign against him in Whitehall, Mr Field gave a commitment to cut social security spending and reaffirmed his belief in promoting friendly societies to ease the burden on the state.

However, the minister said: "The review is about seeking new approaches which are more likely to be about changing the balance between alternatives, rather than thinking that we can make major lurches one way or the other."

Mr Field, who was appointed to his post on the basis of his free thinking about welfare while Labour was in opposition, is facing growing speculation that his review has run into the sand and is proving incapable of coming up with an acceptable reform blueprint. Reports have suggested that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is sceptical that the Field review team can produce the big savings he is looking for in social security spending in order to divert money into education.

In only his second speech since the general election, and the first to be delivered from a prepared text, Mr Field yesterday answered some of the main criticisms. But he warned against seeing the Government's plans as "simply an exercise in downsizing state responsibility". — *David Brindle*

Courts martial 'violate rights'

BRITAIN'S system of courts martial came under renewed fire in the European Court of Human Rights yesterday. Months after the court declared the system illegal, it has found Britain in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights a second time.

Paul Coyne, an RAF officer aged 25, was serving as a non-commissioned officer in Germany five years ago when an application for early release was granted, then refused because of a police inquiry into his financial activities. He was charged with forgery and deception over a loan he had tried to obtain using a false signature. A court martial found him guilty of one charge of forgery. He was jailed for nine months and dismissed from the air force. His appeals were rejected.

He took his case to Strasbourg, arguing he had been denied a fair hearing "by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law" as required under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights to which Britain is a signatory. The court found in his favour.

Organic farmers to get boost

BRITAIN'S most celebrated organic farmer, Prince Charles, yesterday underlined his opposition to the genetically engineered food flooding into Britain, unlabelled, from the US.

Calling for a European labelling scheme to give consumers choice, he told a meeting of international farmers in Oxford: "A great many consumers simply do not want to eat food produced in this way. I certainly don't. The only way to be sure of avoiding it is to buy organic. The consequences of conventional, intensive agriculture cannot be underestimated."

Jack Cunningham, Minister for Agriculture, announced that he would give organic farming greatly increased support in the future, redirecting European funds from intensive farming to the fastest-growing food sector.

"Britain can do much better. By redirecting funds I would aim at increasing greatly the proportion of the Common Agriculture Policy budget devoted to enhancing rural economies, the environment and organic food," he said. He said BSE was expected to cost Britain up to £5 billion, including £800 million lost so far by the meat industry. — *John Vidal*

Death-wish videos planned

A NEW digital video disc which self-destructs after two days could end the trek back to the video shop to return a film. Special video machines will time the discs as soon as they start to play. After 48 hours, the discs refuse to play and can be thrown away.

The American-based Digital Video Express consortium (Divx) wants to replace familiar video tapes with the limited-life discs, the New Scientist journal reported yesterday. The discs will cost less than £3.

The new technology has been given a cautious welcome by the big film companies, which fear it will be easy to make pirate copies of films from the discs. To protect them, the films will all be scrambled and a special code will be needed to access them.

Fans flock to football

MORE than a third of the population of England and Wales — 18 million people — consider themselves football supporters, according to a report out yesterday.

The report by Oliver & Ohlbaum and Fletcher Research also suggested a change in the game's social fabric, from working class entertainment to middle class pastime. However, the vast majority of fans — 95 per cent — are armchair supporters, with only 750,000 people turning up to at least one Premier league match a season.

Yeltsin promises strong but lean Russian state

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN told Russia's upper house of parliament yesterday that the state should emulate his recovery from heart surgery and become stronger but leaner.

"The market alone is not a panacea for all problems," the president told the Federation Council. "A new economic order is needed and for that a strong and smart government is necessary."

Authorised leaks from the Kremlin on Tuesday said Mr Yeltsin would redefine the role of the post-communist state — not as the economy's owner but as its controller and main engine of growth. In the event the speech revealed little new ideology but plenty of old Yeltsin political savvy.

To impose his second programme of economic reform he needs to admit to the free-market excesses of his first programme. Forcing state enterprises such as the mammoth gas producer Gazprom to pay taxes will be popular and make change more palatable.

With the lower house, the Duma, promising to reject the government's new austerity budget, and the Communist Party planning countrywide protests next month, Mr Yeltsin desperately needs to broaden his support and regain the political initiative. Flattering the upper house, which is composed of the leaders of Russia's 89 regions and republics, is a good start.

"The opposition only engages in yelling and political insolence," he growled. "There can be no talk of a political culture in the Duma similar to that in the Federation Council."

But since he last addressed them three years ago, the regional leaders have won popular elections and no longer need to curry presidential favour. They, too, are threatening to reject the budget, which drastically cuts their incomes, but may be cowed by an implicit threat yesterday to curb their autonomy.

Mr Yeltsin said he had sent federal investigators to scrutinise a Siberian mayor who has reportedly introduced a local rule of terror. "Other, more profound measures" might be needed, he said, to curb regional abuses.

> He said there would be no more cosy carve-ups of state assets among rival banker-industrialists and their friends

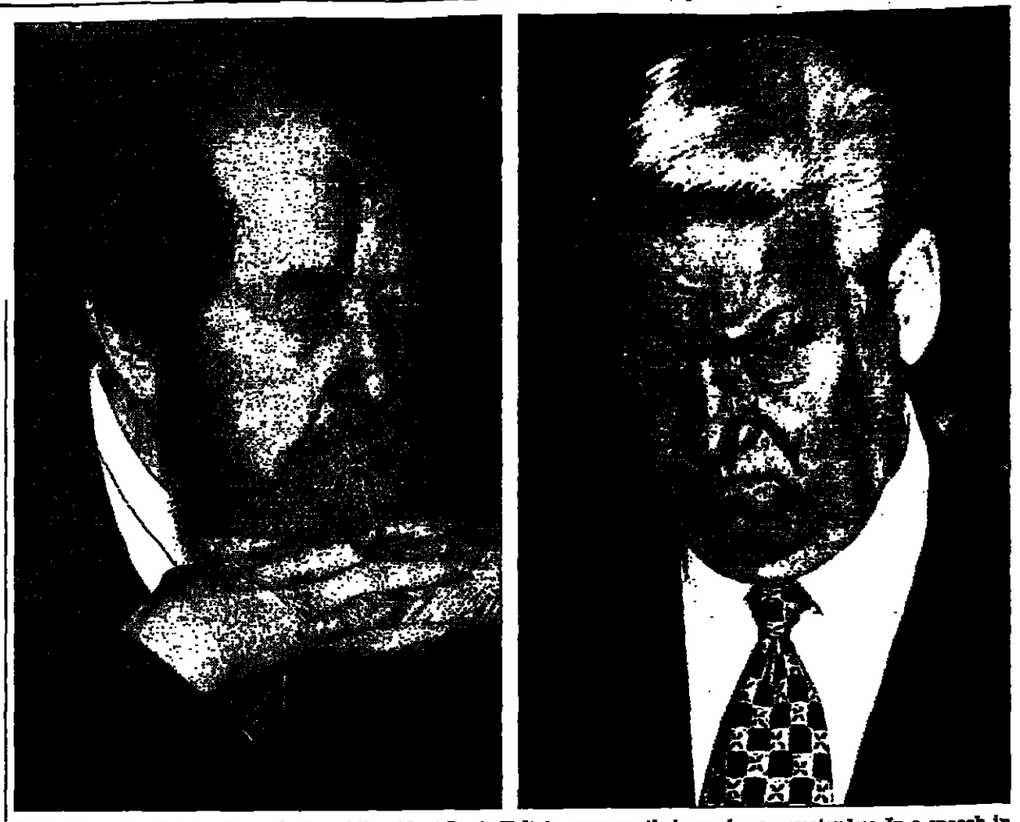
The regional governors might also find some consolation in Mr Yeltsin's tongue-lashing of corrupt bureaucrats and fat-cat businessmen. He pledged that there would be no more cosy carve-ups of state assets among rival banker-industrialists assisted by well-connected friends.

"The government is establishing clear and equal rules of economic behaviour. We will ensure that these rules are followed by everyone," he said.

But the recent show of force from the banking community, which held talks with Mr Yeltsin last week, showed that some are more equal than others. The president has agreed to meet them more regularly and will be urged to privatise on their terms.

The financial oligarchs will join the oil and gas lobby — which wants no privatisation — the communists and the nationalists in a broad but fluid opposition to the Yeltsin administration as it seeks to concentrate its power and pursue economic reform more vigorously.

Mr Yeltsin's speech and his busy programme of travel around the Russian regions suggest he is now engaged with day-to-day government and is determined to build new alliances.



Both Alexander Solzhenitsyn (left) and President Boris Yeltsin were on their warhorses yesterday. In a speech in Moscow the Nobel peace prize-winner bemoaned the decline of world culture, saying it had been enslaved by mammon, while Mr Yeltsin attacked corrupt bureaucrats and fat-cat businessmen PHOTOGRAPHS: MISHA JAPARIDZE and YURI KADOBNOV

Rat poison 'injected into French cattle'

Jon Henley in Paris

FRENCH authorities are investigating allegations that farmers are injecting beef cattle with rat poison to mask illegal growth hormones. There are also suspicions that the poison may turn the meat a deeper, more appealing red.

The National Consumer Council, one of several government bodies overseeing food quality, has instructed its vets to test carcasses to try to confirm the practice. It fears thousands of cattle in several *départements*, mainly in eastern France, have been affected.

"At the moment we can only confirm that we have serious indications that this may be happening," a spokesman for the council said.

"We do not know exactly where or to what degree, but a systematic investigation is warranted. Clearly the implications are alarming."

The practice came to light last month when police seized a large quantity of growth hormones from a farm in the Saône-et-Loire *département*. Several people who were questioned told investigators that the farmer was using a rat poison known as dicoumaral, widely available in France, to mask the hormones.

The use of growth hormones in meat farming is illegal in the European Union, although their danger to humans is disputed. The World Trade Organisation has challenged the EU's embargo on United States beef imports containing the hormones, demanding that Brussels provide scientific evidence of a risk to human health.

Arnaud Morel, a veterinary scientist at Paris University, said it was "physically and chemically possible" that dicoumaral could disguise growth hormones. He added, however, that to his knowledge it had not been proved to work with cattle.

He said the poison might also turn the meat a deeper red over time. "I'm sure if [farmers] think it has that effect, some will try it."

Europe slips up on banana trading rules

Stephen Bates in Brussels

EUROPE is coming under increasing pressure to stand by Caribbean banana producers threatened with economic ruin, after a World Trade Organisation ruling that the European Union breached trading rules by giving them favourable access to its markets over the United States multinational Chiquita.

The WTO's dispute settlement body in Geneva is today expected to endorse the complaint brought by the US government and four Latin American countries at the behest of Chiquita. The company claims it was treated unfairly, even though it has more than 70 per cent of the 3.7 million-tonne annual banana trade with Europe, against less than 10 per cent for Caribbean producers.

Marshall Hall, managing director of the Jamaica Producers' Group, said: "This is a matter of life or death for us. We seem to have fallen foul of a standard American way of doing business."

The EU Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, insists the WTO ruling be upheld and that support for the small-scale West Indian growers cannot be allowed to jeopardise other cases. The EU Agriculture Commissioner, Franz Fischler, has demanded reforms to the WTO to make it more accountable.

Glenys Kinnock, the Labour MEP who has taken the banana growers' case to Washington, said yesterday: "We must persuade member states to stand firm. There is a hidden agenda, with an American multinational attempting to get its own back."

It has emerged that Chiquita's chairman, the staunch Republican Carl Lindner Jnr, not only contributed $500,000 (£310,000) to the Democratic Party campaign a day before President Bill Clinton's administration took up his complaint with the WTO, but that he was also invited to stay overnight at the White House.

Caribbean producers suspect that Chiquita may also be motivated by a costly corporate decision to sell its interests in the European banana importer Fyffe's, which left it without a stake in the Caribbean.

Brain of Nazis' child victim is buried after 55 years

Kate Connolly in Vienna

THE small, square coffin was pushed on a cart by the rabbi along a tree-lined avenue, followed by 25 mourners. After a five-minute procession, during which they sang haunting Yiddish chants, the group arrived at a small plot in a Jewish corner of Vienna's central cemetery.

At the graveside, where a plain, grey headstone was already in place, the rabbi handed a spade to an elderly Jewish man wrapped in a dark-grey coat. He made a spontaneous speech about the importance of never forgetting.

His hand trembled under the weight of the spade which he used to throw earth over the coffin. And then he stopped, overcome with emotion.

The wooden coffin, draped in a black cloth, held the brain of Wilhelm Kaposi, aged 12, who died on September 10 1942. His death came just three and a half months after the Jewish boy was admitted to Vienna's Spiegelgrund psychiatric hospital, where he was diagnosed as an idiot.

He was one of 417 children whose brains have been stored in jars in a memorial room in the renamed Baumgartnerhöhe hospital for 55 years.

Wilhelm's and three other brains belonging to Austrian victims of the so-called Nazi euthanasia T4 programme practised at the hospital, have been buried in Vienna in the past few days. The other children were Jakob Nemencinskis, aged 11, Max Reichmann, aged 14, and Ilse Philippovic, aged 15. The only details known about them are that they suffered from mental disabilities.

"What happened at that time was terrible. These children's brains were kept in glass jars and used for scientific purposes," Rabbi Chaim Eisenberg told the congregation, made up of members of Vienna's Jewish community. "What has been forgotten, swept under the carpet, is how terrible the plight of these murdered children was. The fact is, we are burying just a brain."

> All of the children died within a few months of entering the Vienna hospital

The burial of the remaining 413 brains has been delayed until next year, pending the results of a parliamentary investigation into a doctor who worked at the hospital.

Heinrich Gross, a neurologist and head of the hospital's Steinhof clinic, was responsible for signing 200 death certificates, most of which state the cause of death as pneumonia.

Dr Gross is believed to have continued experimenting on the brains after 1945. He was decorated with an honorary cross by the Austrian government and gets a generous pension.

Avshalom Hodick of the Jewish community in Vienna said that according to Wilhelm's medical file — one of the few that has not been lost or destroyed — the boy entered the hospital on May 27 1942. "We don't know that he was murdered. He probably died because of lack of care. He was fully examined on August 8 and nothing new was discovered. Then all of a sudden his general condition worsened. All you can do is actually guess what happened."

On September 5 pneumonia was diagnosed and Wilhelm died five days later.

All of the children whose brains were buried in the past few days died within a few months of entering the hospital. "The same also holds true for all the other 413 cases," Dr Hodick said, adding: "I hope the outcome of these burials will be the exposure of the system that allowed such a thing to happen."

Milosevic is slighted but far from defeated in polls

Jonathan Steele in Belgrade finds little to please the West in Serbia's swing right

THE Serbian electorate's strong swing to the right has reduced the power of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic, but left the country's few anti-nationalists in even greater gloom.

With one region still to declare a result from Sunday's election, Mr Milosevic's Socialist Party was well short of a majority of 126 seats in parliament, thanks to Vojislav Seselj's Serbian Radical Party, which doubled its strength from 39 to 80 seats.

Mr Seselj capitalised on the plight of the hundreds of thousands of pensioners and workers in state factories who have not been paid for months. His talk of a strong hand to tackle crime and corruption and get the economy moving struck a powerful chord.

The other main party, Vuk Draskovic's Serbian Renewal Movement (SRM), which is up from 37 to 45 seats, focused on restoring the monarchy. It was the only one of the three parties in the Zajedno (Together) movement, which led last winter's street protests, to take part in the poll. The Democratic Party and the Civic Alliance called for a boycott.

The Socialists have so far won 98 seats, compared with 123 at the last election. Five small parties share 13 other declared seats. Government sources said Mr Milosevic hoped to pick up 12 of the 14 remaining seats in the Pec district of Kosovo in southern Serbia.

In the presidential election Zoran Lilic, Mr Milosevic's favoured successor, should win a run-off with Mr Seselj on October 5.

The Socialists will probably rely on Mr Draskovic's support in forming a government and winning the presidency.

The SRM campaign adviser, Milan Bozic, denied claims that Mr Draskovic had done a deal with Mr Milosevic before the election. But in a Guardian interview he hinted that his leader would take a government job, probably in foreign relations.

"It's obvious that the Socialists' international position is weak, and they need a new image and foreign policy approach," he said. "But we're not just interested in government posts. We want some sort of four-year government programme."

But elections show that foreign hopes of a liberal anti-war and anti-nationalist opposition emerging to challenge Mr Milosevic are misplaced.

Zajedno is doomed, according to Sasha Tijanic, who edits an independent paper. "Zoran Djindjic's Democratic Party and the Serbian Renewal Movement will destroy themselves as parties before the end of the century. Only Seselj will stay the course, because he's fascist."

Sonja Biserko, head of the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, said last winter's street protests were "not an expression of political energy, but psychotherapy".

"People wanted to show that we're not all equally bad. But you couldn't hear any new political ideas, and from the beginning there was clear animosity between Djindjic and Draskovic. They're authoritarian personalities."

Zajedno has run Serbia's biggest cities for the past six months. The experience has not been encouraging, according to the novelist Vidosav Stevanovic. Invited to run the television station in Kragujevac when Zajedno won the council elections, he left six months later. They wanted him to plug Zajedno policies as slavishly as the Socialists had plugged theirs.

"In the liberated towns the new power structure repeated the failures and faults of the old," he said. "The regime is corrupt, incompetent and anachronistic, but the opposition is in disarray, without a clear programme. No politician explains ... how to make a transition to a democracy, how to have good relations with our neighbours, how to deal properly with our minorities in Serbia, and how to join Europe."

'Special status' plea for Kosovo

FOREIGN ministers from the international contact group on Bosnia broke new ground last night by calling on Serbia to give special status to Kosovo to protect the interests of its Albanian population, *writes Ian Black in New York*.

The request, announced at the United Nations, reflects concern about the violence in the formerly autonomous province, and risks an angry reaction from Belgrade.

The ministers called on all parties in Bosnia to implement fully the results of the recent municipal elections, seen as vital to maintain the momentum of the Dayton peace process.

Western diplomats said that failure to comply would have "practical repercussions".

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صكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل



Mexican soldiers and residents in the Baja California peninsula push a jeep stuck on a highway flooded by rains from Hurricane Nora. The eye of the hurricane, one of the most powerful of the season, is expected to make landfall on the peninsula today, before being weakened by mountains as it heads toward south-west Arizona. Fishermen sought refuge in ports all along the coast yesterday. The hurricane's 85mph outer squalls have destroyed dozens of homes and stranded hundreds of Mexicans on roads but have caused no deaths so far PHOTOGRAPH: HERIBERTO RODRIGUEZ

Moonies set sights on Latin America

Critics claim the sect has a plan for world domination, writes **Phil Gunson** in Mexico City

NO ONE answers the doorbell, set in a 9ft-high stone wall topped with glass and iron spikes, at what was once Moonie headquarters in the south of Mexico City.

Shortly after the building was shown in a television programme about the sect's recent flurry of activity in the city, its occupants — mainly young east Asian women — vanished as suddenly as they had arrived.

"People say they were expelled from the country," said Father José Altamirano, a Catholic priest who lives opposite.

The women were among a group of more than 4,000 missionaries for the Unification Church of the Reverend Sun Myung Moon, better known as Moonies, who emerged from a seminary in Uruguay six months ago, bound for destinations all over Latin America and the Caribbean.

Their task was to help lay the groundwork for the latest phase of what the sect's opponents claim is a scheme for world domination — in which Latin America has been assigned a leading role.

The Moonies last made headline news in the region in the 1980s, when their ultra-conservative Korean leader became a close ally of anti-communist military leaders and the Nicaraguan contras.

Nowadays, said Jorge Erdely, a theologian whose centre for socio-religious research has been tracking the sect's movements, the Moonies promote their sect as an institution that furthers family unity and world peace.

Japanese and Korean missionaries have appeared in places as far flung as Chile and Barbados, where they invite passers-by to sign a pledge in support of their stated objectives.

This is a strategy to inflate their membership, said Professor Erdely, who believes the petitions will eventually be presented to the authorities in support of an application for registration as a religious organisation.

If this is their plan, it has already run into problems in several countries. In Honduras the interior minister, Efrain Moncada, said the visas of missionaries in that country would not be renewed when they expire next week. He said they had entered Honduras as tourists and their status was illegal.



Rev Sun Myung Moon, who spent 18 months in an Arizona jail for tax evasion, has offered financial support to local politicians

Venezuela and El Salvador have announced plans to expel the group, and the Catholic Church throughout Central America has called for similar moves.

Rev Moon, a billionaire who spent 18 months in an Arizona jail for tax evasion and fell foul of the law in several other countries, appears to have decided that the Latin American continent offers the best investment potential.

Alejandro de Souza, a Moon representative, is supervising a project that covers 12,145 acres on the Brazil-Paraguay border and which involves eco-tourism, as well as industry. Moonies claim it aims to recreate the Garden of Eden.

The first phase of the project, which includes industry and eco-tourism, involves a $100 million (£62 million) investment. The sect also plans to invest in Chilean timber and the Mexican tuna-fishing fleet, among other projects.

In Uruguay, where the Moonies own a bank, a daily newspaper and the only five-star hotel, Moonie investments are estimated at $200 million. The sect's presence is so notorious that residents of the capital, Montevideo, have been heard to joke about changing the city's name to Moontevideo.

In Argentina, where the sect has bought up large tracts of land in the north of the country, Rev Moon last year launched a regional newspaper at a seminar addressed by the former United States president George Bush.

Mr Bush, who described Moon as "the man with the vision", is only the most prominent of several politicians to be courted.

In Chile it emerged recently that Rev Moon had provided financial support to several politicians, including a right-wing MP. In Mexico he offered financial support to the struggling Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (Parm), although the party had lost its registration.

Prof Erdely said he was concerned that Mexico's endemic corruption made the country an attractive base for potentially dangerous sects.

Whatever their problems elsewhere, he said, the Moonies have definitely not been expelled from Mexico. They have simply moved house.

West voices its shock but little else at new Algerian massacre

Richard Norton-Taylor

RITUAL calls for an end to the bloodshed in Algeria and a collective wringing of hands were the West's reaction yesterday to the latest massacre in Algeria, in which at least 200 people were killed. The common response from diplomats was: "It is for the Algerians themselves to sort it out."

The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) has declared a ceasefire from next Wednesday, saying the move will expose rival rebels from the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), whom it blames for the massacres of civilians.

A statement, signed by the AIS commander, Madani Mezerag, accused the GIA and unnamed forces manipulating them of being determined to nullify conciliatory measures by the Algerian government to try to end five years of bloody civil war.

"In order to foil the plans of those who are waiting for the opportunity to harm Algeria ... the national emir [commander] of the Islamic Salvation Army orders all chiefs of combat companies under his command to stop combat operations from October 1 1997," the statement said.

But despite the announcement, which unusually was carried on state television, Western diplomats remain pessimistic. Recent massacres are blamed on the GIA.

Derek Fatchett, the British Foreign Office minister, said he was appalled by the massacre in the Algiers suburbs between Baraki and Bougara on Tuesday night.

"We condemn terrorism wherever and whenever it takes place," he said. "We believe that a solution to this conflict must come from the Algerians themselves."

> 'The old question – what can we do? – becomes crueller with each attack'

A spokesman for the French foreign ministry, Yves Doutriaux, said his government was "horror-stricken" by the latest atrocity. But he added that France "again stresses the need for a political settlement drafted by the Algerians themselves".

But the Paris daily Libération said: "The old and obsessive question 'What can we do?' becomes more cruel with every attack, because clearly no one has the answer."

This was seen as a reference to a recent statement by the French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine: "We cannot do nothing. But what can we do?"

François Hollande, head of the ruling Socialist Party, said: "The problem must be internationalised ... Voicing indignation no longer suffices." The Algerian government, meanwhile, has accused France of meddling in its internal affairs.

The AIS emerged from the opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and became its armed wing. GIA groups are among the most radical of Algeria's Islamists.

Some commentators suggested that the bloodshed might increase in advance of local elections next month, as the GIA tried to sabotage any deal between the government and the FIS.

They also pointed to a power struggle within President Liamine Zeroual's military-dominated leadership, which is divided on how to end the bloodshed.

The FIS has claimed that Algerian military forces have been 'involved in some killings.

Escalation of blood, page 9



Friends and family of the victims of Tuesday's massacre on the outskirts of Algiers stand by the graves in Baraki cemetery

US turns the heat on Mexican drug barons

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

UNITED STATES pressure on Mexican drug traffickers operating on its borders could lead to a fresh spate of murderous gang warfare.

A grand jury in Washington has indicted Ramón Arellano Felix, head of the most powerful cartel in Tijuana, just across the border from San Diego, California, and the authorities are offering a reward for his capture. It is said to be $2 million (£1.24 million), although the details remain secret.

US policy is to bring unrelenting pressure on the cartel, which has suffered from gang warfare since the death after plastic surgery of a rival baron, Amado Carillo Fuentes, who operated in Juarez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas. There have been a dozen murders in border towns since he died in July.

The US is determined that the power vacuum created by his death will not be filled by the four Arellano brothers. Except for the eldest, the imprisoned Francisco, aged 49, they have managed to evade the law.

Ramón Arellano, aged 34, is the cartel leader, and the chief suspect for the murder at Guadalajara airport in 1993 of a Mexican cardinal who was in a car mistaken for that of a rival trafficker.

His younger brother Javier, alias "Little Tiger", who is aged about 28, was once wounded in a gun fight with the police and arrested, but he was rescued by a team of corrupt policemen.

The reward offered for the capture of Ramón is supposed to "break the bubble" of official corruption that surrounds the family and safeguards its billion-dollar-a-year operation. But any suspicion of co-operating with the US authorities brings instant death.

The Arellano brothers own and run restaurants, hotels, night clubs and bars in Tijuana, and employ scores of Mexicans. This and their marriages into prominent families have made them admired figures in the city, where their huge bribes keep them out of trouble.

The killing began even before the death of Carrillo, who is now known to have been trying to move his business to South America. In March, gunmen in Tijuana shot the father and wife of Jesús Alberto Bayardo Robles, who had apparently broken the smugglers' law of silence.

Bayardo, now in a US prison, is reported to have given the authorities definitive information about the death of the cardinal, whose murder has never been aggressively pursued in Mexico.

A US drug enforcement officer said: "These events rip off the veil of silence in Tijuana. The point is to highlight this cartel's criminality and make Ramón and the others socially unacceptable."

As the drug trade from Mexico grows, the US authorities are seething at their inability to bring the smugglers to justice in either country. Only last month Latin Trade magazine put its value at $15 billion (£9.3 billion) annually. This amounts to 5 per cent of Mexico's entire economy.

Colombian rebels mount dawn raids

Reuter in Bogotá

LEFTWING rebels launched dawn raids on two towns in eastern Colombia yesterday, killing a policeman and a soldier and injuring 12 civilians, in an attempt to defuse a huge army offensive in a nearby jungle region.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc), Latin America's oldest and largest rebel force, simultaneously attacked police stations in Castillo and La Uribe, both in Meta province.

Two civilians died in a separate rebel attack in south-west Colombia, while a right-wing paramilitary death squad murdered four people in the north.

An army spokesman said a policeman and a soldier had been killed in La Uribe, which served as the Farc's main headquarters until 1990.

At least four adults and eight children were wounded by flying shrapnel from grenades. No injuries were reported in Castillo.

"These simultaneous actions were to distract us from operations in the Yari region ... the guerrillas were trying to break up the cordon the army has set up around their colleagues," the police's operations director, General Alfredo Salgado, said.

The army began pouring more than 3,000 troops into the inhospitable jungle and swamp region, known as the Savannah of Yari, which spreads across part of Meta and neighbouring Caqueta and Guaviare provinces, on September 4.

The ground mobilisation was preceded by an intense aerial bombardment. Neither the army nor the Farc has given any death toll so far.

> 'These guerrilla attacks were to distract us, to try to break up the army cordon'

In a separate attack in south-west Valle de Cauca province, Farc rebels blew up a highway toll-booth, killing the two attendants inside. Rightwing paramilitary fighters, meanwhile, killed four people in a early morning attack in northern Cesar province, the authorities said.

The wave of killings across the country coincided with a promise by President Ernesto Samper to ask MPs to draw up an amnesty for the guerrillas if they take part in a new peace process he launched in late June.

But he said the measure would not apply to those rebels and paramilitary fighters accused of committing "war atrocities", such as the massacre of civilians during the country's three-year uprising.

Mr Samper's pledge came the day after the constitutional court struck down a provision of the 1980 penal code which granted rebel combatants political immunity from prosecution for acts of war.

The ruling was hailed by senior officers as a legal victory against the guerrillas, while Marco Leon Calarca, the Farc's international spokesman, said it was a victory for "rightwingers" and could prove a setback to peace talks.

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The Guardian
Thursday September 25 1997
Edition Number 46,978
119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER
Fax No. 0171-837 4530
E-mail: letters@guardian.co.uk
Website: http://www.guardian.co.uk

Rights know no frontier

The issue in Saudi Arabia is morality not trade

SAUDI ARABIA should not be surprised at the outrage over the sentences passed on the two British nurses, even though these are still subject to appeal. No one could reasonably object to judicial decisions reached after a process of open trial, and resulting in punishment which accords with modern humane standards. This case fails on both counts. There may be an argument as to whether public protest is the most effective way of influencing appeals. In reacting so quickly to the flogging sentence passed on Lucille McLaughlan, the Foreign Secretary has rejected the FO's tradition of quiet intercession. But that is a separate argument about diplomacy, not morality: and the grounds for a moral judgment here are clear.

The Saudi ambassador yesterday reminded British critics that this case arose because "a hideous crime has been committed and an innocent woman brutally murdered." That is not in dispute. But in a world which seeks to improve standards of humanity — against the odds, it must be admitted — even those charged with the worst crimes have the right to be tried fairly and, if guilty, punished humanely. There is a general presumption that trials should be open except in special circumstances which cannot be said to apply to the current case. And the need for humane punishment was acknowledged soon after the war when the UN General Assembly adopted without dissent the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: this includes the provision that "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." Saudi Arabia was a founding member of the UN. The same provision was incorporated into the 1966 International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, adopted unanimously by the Assembly — which again included Saudi Arabia.

It is impossible to regard punishment by lashing as anything else than "inhuman and degrading." Capital punishment — the possible fate for Deborah Parry — is a more difficult issue. Amnesty International insists that it is by its very nature inhumane, and campaigns against its use in all circumstances. The validity of such a position — which would require the US to be censured as much as China or Saudi Arabia — seems compelling but may have to be put on one side here. For UN safeguards agreed in 1984 provide that where capital punishment does occur, it shall be carried out "so as to inflict the minimum possible suffering." This is evidently not the case, both in terms of physical and mental suffering, in Saudi Arabia, where the head is severed from the body in a ritual of public execution. The spectacle of the relatives of the deceased apparently bargaining for a cash payment, in return for which they will request commutation of the death sentence, is also deeply disturbing.

It is impossible to consider this case without being aware of the wider political context. Saudi Arabia is, we must suppose, an ally of Great Britain — it certainly was during the Gulf War. It is said to be some sort of guarantor of stability in the Middle East. It is an excellent customer for British goods and services and particularly for British arms. The latest British report to the UN Register of Conventional Arms shows the supply of six Tornado aircraft and 48 missiles and missiles launchers for last year alone. This single case is not sufficient grounds for cancelling such sales — the argument against a policy which condones a new Middle East arms race should be made on separate grounds. But neither trade, dubious or otherwise, nor the undoubted fact that Britain's own system of justice could be improved, should inhibit criticism in this unhappy case.

Waking up from a long dream

Ashdown is right: the Lib-Dems must compromise for power

PADDY ASHDOWN did what he had to do did it well. In his speech to the Liberal Democratic conference yesterday, he celebrated his party's recent triumphs, offered a few bright ideas and made a robust case for working with Labour. The rhetoric was hardly sparkling, but it was sound and sure-footed and for that Mr Ashdown must be applauded. Without an autocue, the Lib-Dem leader offered more than just TV friendly platitudes. Instead Mr Ashdown served up some useful new thinking, the "politics of imagination" in his rather good phrase. He spoke of two economies: one rewarding high risk with high pay, the other compensating lower wages with greater job security. This notion of "competitive" and "community" economies running side by side is worth developing. The same is true of his remarks on the environment. He said we should tax jobs less and pollution more; that way we would get more of the former and less of the latter. He called for a Green Geneva Convention, an international treaty to prevent eco-vandalism and Red Cross-style status for clean-up teams. All good thoughts. Who knows, after a decent interval we may well hear some version of them from Mr Blair.

Not that the Lib-Dems are keen to be a policy reservoir for Labour. Mr Ashdown's chief task was to reassure anxious tribalists in his own party who fear they are about to be gobbled up by the Government and its 179-seat majority. He did that by throwing out several joints of anti-Labour redmeat, all of which were seized on hungrily by the Eastbourne crowd. He took swipes at Gordon Brown's budget, Jack Straw's disregard for civil liberties and Peter Mandelson's Dome — to warm cheers and applause. But, as Mr Mandelson noted so helpfully earlier on in the week, Mr Ashdown is playing a dangerous game. He had to show delegates he shared their suspicions over Blair, but also persuade them they had no choice but to work with it.

It was not a message the delegates were eager to hear. Many of them quite like "opposition," but are not too keen on the "constructive" bit. So Paddy Ashdown had to make the same case to the Lib-Dems that Neil Kinnock argued for Labour in the 1980s — that principle without power is useless. He warned against "excessive concern for our own purity." He explained that Liberal Democrats now had a chance of delivering the things of which, until this moment, his party had only been able to dream — but that gaining "real prizes" would entail compromise. If the Lib-Dems are to be more than a doctrinally-pristine sect, Mr Ashdown is surely right.

All told, this has been a worthwhile week for the Lib-Dems, a time to thrash out the meaning of this strategy of constructive opposition. Now, as Shirley Williams says, the onus shifts to Labour which has to show it can be an equally "receptive government." A dialogue has begun in Eastbourne. Now it moves to Brighton, and Tony Blair.

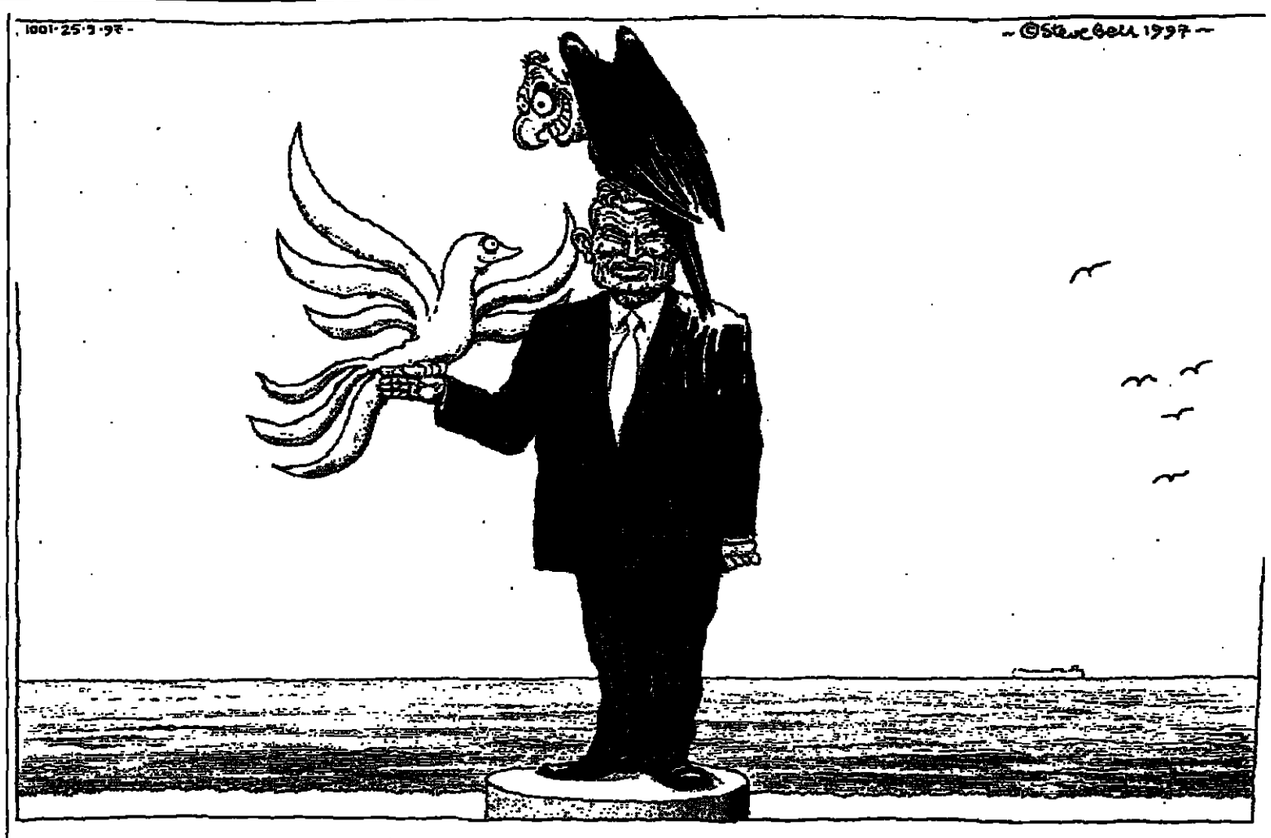
And quietly flows the Don

Oftel has done some smart work: it must be continued

IT CANNOT be said that the regulation of utilities is much of a turn-on at dinner parties, which is all the more reason why the departure of Don Cruickshank as director general of the Office of Telecommunications (Oftel) shouldn't pass without comment. The process which has come to be known as privatisation consisted of two simultaneous events — the transfer of ownership from public to private sector and, much more important in terms of economic efficiency, deregulation.

For five years Mr Cruickshank has successfully battled with British Telecom to introduce more competition and to ensure that BT doesn't abuse its monopoly powers by shutting out competitors. The job is not finished — telephone calls are still too high particularly on international routes — but Britain now boasts dozens of new competitors to BT ranging from Energis, which uses the electricity grid to carry fibre optic cables, to the new generation of wireless telephones.

Thanks in no small part to Oftel, Britain can claim to be the most open telephone market in the world. One example is that the charge BT levies for rivals to connect to its system has fallen by over 80 per cent in five years to less than half the level in Europe. Lower bills not only leave more money for consumer spending. They also spawn new businesses, cheapen use of the Internet and increase the country's competitive edge. Mr Cruickshank's £125,000 salary is a small price to pay for reduced charges running into hundreds of millions. Pundits were sceptical of Mr Cruickshank's plea for Oftel to be replaced by a broader Communications Commission on the grounds that it looked like a disguised career move (would that it were). Now it should be viewed seriously if only to keep the heat on when the Don departs.



Letters to the Editor

Saudi justice system in the dock

ROBIN Cook says that the punishment for murder of 500 lashes is "wholly unacceptable in the modern world" (Cook protests at Saudi flogging for nurse, September 24). Just read your own paper on the same day. Is this the modern world in which paedophilia is rampant (Horror upon horror, G2); abortion, pornography and unnatural homosexuality is thrust upon us by Channel 4 (C4 risks storm with abortion night); the "justice" system produces and releases heroin addicts on to the streets (Enter the dragon, Society); women are referred to as "bitch" and "slag" (Policewoman wins case of sex bias and victimisation) and millions are spent on driving at 700mph in a desert (Thrusting into the transonic)?

Confusion and ignorance prevail in these matters because man cannot decide upon clear-cut laws and punishments, particularly in matters where he wants to indulge to an "acceptable" level such as social drinking, flirting in the office, soft porn etc. Muslims welcome Allah's laws and His justice which are a mercy to mankind who, as your paper shows, cannot decide what is right and wrong and is suffering as a result of it.
Imran Golding.
PO Box 1175,
Swindon SN2 6FE.

SO the Foreign Secretary of this "land of hope and glory" thinks that he can dictate terms of sentence to the judicial system of Saudi Arabia? Leaving aside the adage of doing in Rome "what the Romans do" or suffer the same consequences Romans would, this is the law of the land and those who are convicted of crime must expect to suffer the punishment according to law.

Why is that British citizens abroad are all "innocent" and foreign citizens duly convicted all guilty? It may be that experiences of this order remind Britannia that she no longer "rules the waves".
Rudy Narayan.
Civil Rights (UK).
First Floor, Mandela Rooms,
New Justice House,
41a Brixton Road,
London SW9 8DG.

IS the sentence of 500 lashes deeply offensive to the British public? I find the fact that two nurses have been convicted of murdering a colleague and proven to have stolen from the victim after the slaying more offensive. Who are we to judge the legal system of other countries when ours has on occasion been found wanting?
Ian McLean.
Melford Avenue,
Barking, Essex IG11.

WHAT appalls me in the Saudi nurse's murder case is not so much the system of justice in that country, but more the attitude of Frank Gilford, brother of the murdered woman, Yvonne Gilford. The two nurses concerned were found guilty although the "evidence" against them consisted of confessions, later retracted.

In Australia, where Mr Gilford lives, their confessions alone would not have secured their conviction. I therefore fail to understand why, in the interests of ordinary humanity, he did not agree to waive his rights in this case a long time ago and ask for the death penalty to be set aside, rather than keeping Ms Parry and her family in what must be agonising suspense.
Paul M Brennock.
3 Brisbane Street,
Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 3JL.

ROBIN Cook, whilst right to condemn the imposition by a Saudi court of a barbaric sentence, has missed the point. This is that the two accused have not, save in a Kafkaesque sense, even had a trial.

In absolutist Saudi Arabia, such words as "court" and "judges" have a completely different meaning from that which obtains here. By all standards of justice, the process applied to these two UK citizens amounts to an abuse of state power.

There will be a temptation for the British government to put its financial interests ahead of the interests of justice by making a token protest and signing another arms sale agreement. If its hands are not to be soiled, this temptation must be resisted.
Laurence N Mann.
Northcote Road,
St Margaret's,
Twickenham,
Middlesex TW1.

WHAT do two nurses matter anyhow: we are after all talking about billions of pounds worth of arms sales.
A Wylie.
Mulberry Place,
Edinburgh EH6.

The view from Eastbourne

SIMON Hoggart's conference sketch (Mandelson gets hot air treatment, September 24) argues that global warming is, "an uproved and contested hypothesis". This view would not have been out of place in the Times or the Telegraph 10 years ago — but is extraordinary in the supposedly environmentally aware Guardian.

Climate change, caused mainly by man-made C02 build up in the atmosphere, is accepted fact by the British Government, the EU, the OECD and the United Nations. If it continues, it will have a catastrophic impact on the global climate. Worldwide debate is no longer "if" we need to do something to reduce emissions, but how we do it. Liberal Democrats debated these issues as the major policy paper at our conference. We have set out in detail what needs to be done — and how to do it. Whether you argue or disagrees with our plans, it does none of your readers a service in promoting the view that nothing needs to be done.
Matthew Taylor MP.
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

IT could be just a shade cynical of me, but I have to question Peter Mandelson's motives for attacking Paddy Ashdown. It could well be an attempt to gain support from rank-and-file Labour members in the run-up to the crucial national executive elections. It could be a cool manoeuvre designed purely to garner votes; a mere stepping stone on his progress to the front benches. Otherwise the minister without portfolio has to fall back on the Millennium Dome and Labour's lacklustre performance in Uxbridge. This is hardly a record of achievement and a promise of more.
(Cllr) Kevin Peters.
278 London Road,
North End,
Portsmouth PO2 9HE.

THE real reason for Tony Blair's and Peter Mandelson's irritation at the Lib-Dems' criticism of Government policy is that many Labour MPs agree with Paddy Ashdown. Having been silenced in the cause of Party unity, their doubts can only be publicly expressed in the forum of LibDem opinion. If there is indeed such dissent on the Labour back benches it will be interesting to see if these Labour MPs are prepared to support the LibDems in opposing proposed legislation.
G L Samson.
8 Preston Road,
Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5LB.

Tourist trap

THE British Tourist Authority would serve Britain better if they concerned themselves with what is placed in front of tourists rather than worrying over their logo (Letters, September 24).

As someone who has spent his life in and around London I had not been to a popular tourist spot for some 20 years. This August, I visited Tower Bridge and took part in a guided tour with some French, German and Dutch tourists. I finished the tour ashamed to be British. The whole event was patronising and jingoistic: we were treated to silly talking puppets, shaky theatre and a slide show which carefully included us winning the war.

I understood we were good at the heritage industry, yet we appear to be repeating failures from our past. Just like much of Britain's great but vanished industries, we are still under-estimating and patronising our customers.
Ian Castle.
Winnats,
Whitehall Road,
Meopham, Kent DA13 0NS.



Walking, the costly option

JONATHAN Glancey (The beauty just a walk away from the bull ring, September 22) does well to point out the importance of walking. Unfortunately there is a current trend to describe providing pedestrian facilities as a low cost measure. Individual schemes are low cost, but if we are to make improvements across the nation then we are looking at a big bill, and one we should be prepared to pay. Initial estimates of implementing "safe routes to school" schemes are coming in at about £100,000 per school. The government's Child Pedestrian Safety Strategy estimated the cost of providing 20mph zones on 80 per cent of suitable urban roads at around £2-3 billion. It is important not to become fixated on physical infrastructure. One of the major disincentives to walking and indeed personal freedom generally is fear for personal security, and this has a profound effect on the mobility of women. Perception of crime and the effectiveness of policing are vital areas to improve if walking is to be encouraged.
Robert Huxford.
Assistant Director,
Association of
Municipal Engineers.
One Great George Street,
London SW1P 3AA.

On grandparents

WITH reference to your article (Generation flap, September 24) on grandparenting classes: in a research paper I'm publishing next month on the elderly the evidence shows it isn't clear how many grandparents are actively involved in their grandchildren's lives via baby-sitting and so on. Unlike that of Age Concern, our research indicates that a high proportion of the elderly — 72 per cent in our sample — no longer baby-sit regularly. Respondents also said they felt their parenting skills to be out of date and no longer relevant.

The move to re-teach grandparenting skills is welcome. It will also address the growing problem of social isolation of the elderly which is affecting our society. I've identified two groups: the "cheerful eighties", who are more open to relationships with younger people and the "sombre sixties", fearful of their own security, who can find it hard to interact with younger generations. Unless action is taken, the latter view is going to dominate the culture of the aged in the years ahead.
(Dr) Frank Furedi.
Department of Sociology,
University of Kent
at Canterbury,
Kent CT2 7NZ.

Pedalling furiously into a tight corner

I WAS astonished to see your front-page photograph of Tony Adams, the cyclist charged in Cambridge for cycling furiously (September 23). As an undergraduate at Gonville and Caius College in Cambridge last year, I lived in the centre of town and frequently witnessed his careering through the town centre on his bicycle.

It is infinitely more difficult for a pedestrian to notice a small, silent, poorly illuminated bicycle travelling at 25mph than a car at similar speed. I am amazed at the coverage afforded this menace in the media. The police should be commended and Mr Adams condemned for his selfish and dangerous behaviour.
Tom Moss.
26 Polhill Avenue,
Bedford K41 9ED.

READING about the problems of Tony Adams, reminded me of my own court appearance for a cycling offence, some 20 years ago. I'd love to claim that I too was "furiously" pedalling. However, mine was an ancient sit-up-and-beg bicycle, which I had painted red, with daisies. Wearing stripey socks, a Laura Ashley dress and a straw hat, I found myself at a busy crossroads in central Liverpool. Waiting to turn right, and obeying the "cycling proficiency" lessons of my childhood, I was positioned in the centre of the road. In order to beat the oncoming queue of buses and taxis, I "propelled the pedal machine" (as the charge sheet later put it) just before the traffic lights changed to green. I didn't take the WPC, who pulled me over, seriously until she said: "Anything you say may be..."

In court I asked the magistrate whether he knew what it was like braving the city traffic on a bike each day. I was given an "unconditional discharge — with sympathy".
Best of luck to you, Tony.
Julia Porter.
81 Beechfield Road,
Liverpool L18 3EQ.

WHEN everybody's finished laughing about speeding cyclists or defending them as helpless victims, can I ask if readers have ever tried to stop a bike at over 20mph? Anybody who relies on those useless brakes at speed in a built-up area should certainly be invited to discuss Newton's and other laws with a magistrate before he kills somebody or breaks his own stupid neck.
Mike Lyle.
Maesllwyd,
Llangynog, Carmarthen.

ON THE evening of September 8, I was cycling at 25mph in Exeter, with lights on. A group of teenagers ran into the road in front of me (after I had warned them by shouting) and I collided with one. She, thankfully, escaped with only scratches and bruises. I, wearing a helmet, was unconscious for about 20 minutes and taken to hospital.
Roger Adams (no relation).
185 Pinhoe Road,
Poisloe Bridge,
Exeter, Devon EX4 7HZ.

I, AND I suspect a lot of other people, might have more sympathy for cyclists if they kept off the pavements. Most of David Reynolds' (Letters, September 24) complaints about motorists' treatment of cyclists apply equally to cyclists' attitudes towards pedestrians.
Neil Burgess.
23 Drury Lane,
Lincoln LN1 3BN.

A Country Diary

WHITBURN, Tyne and Wear: Conditions for rock pooling were just about perfect as the 40 students on Durham University department of Biological Sciences annual marine biology field course headed for Whitburn Rocks, armed to the teeth with nets, buckets, sieves, garden forks and collecting jars. A flat calm sea, blue sky stretching to every horizon and an equinoctial spring tide that would be one of the lowest of the year provided perfect conditions for exploring kelp beds that are rarely exposed. The omens were good. The first rock that I turned over revealed a large and belligerent velvet swimming crab — a species with an alarming ability to reach back over its carapace and deliver a painful nip to the unwary. Soon he was sharing a bucket with edible crabs — with carapaces like neatly crimped pie crusts — and hermit crabs that sulked in their winkle-shell homes. Turning over slippery, algae-encrusted rocks on the tide line revealed three more seashore predators — the common and Purple Henry starfish, with five arms, and a small but dazzling red and yellow sun star, with a dozen radiating arms. We winkled out blue rayed limpets from the tangled holdfasts of kelps and collected sea anemones from shady overhangs. As the tide turned we were forced up the beach, collecting as we retreated. Back on the strand line we sat and ate out sandwiches, comparing catches while we waited for the bus to take us back to the lab and the animals to their aquaria. Someone had a small but exquisite royal blue lobster. In another bucket there were butterfish and a worm pipefish — like a black bootlace with a single vibrating dorsal fin and a head like a sea horse. There were jars full of writhing marine worms, shrimps and tiny sea squirts. A good haul, from the furthest fringes of the shore.

PHIL GATES

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Diary

Matthew Norman

A FASCINATING article in NHS Magazine reaches the Diary via Peter Hewitt, who sends it from Manchester. Its author is Phil Hammond, a GP and member of the comedy duo Struck Down and Die, and his subject is the delightful courtesy doctors lavish upon their patients. Among Dr Hammond's brief lexicon of acronyms they use in patient's notes is TF BUD. It is designed for elderly hospital patients, and stands for Totally F[illegible] But Unfortunately Not Dead Yet. Meanwhile, TIP is Pumpkin Positive. "when you shine a [illegible]ch in the patient's mouth the brain is so small that his whole head lights up," Mr Hewitt asks: "Do you really think the house magazine of the NHS should be giving space to these horrific examples of medical prejudice?" He nominates GROLIBS as the unkindest acronym of all. I hesitate to translate, but it demands. GROLL reveals Dr Hammond, is "Guardian Readers of Limited Intelligence in Logic Skirts". The Freedom of Information Act entitles us all to read our notes. Anyone who does so and is baffled by an acronym is entitled to contact the Diary.

THE new book of the Mons Kate Kray's elegy titled paean to her late husband Ronald: Ronnie Kray: Sorted (Blake Publishing £15.99) is trailed as the deathbed secrets of Britain's most notorious gaffer", but there is much here to confirm his reputation as one of the East End's 24-carat diamond geezers.

He was, for example, a true romantic: Ronnie's widow reveals that his sole bequest to her was the 9 mm automatic with which he shot George Cornell in the chest dahn the Blind Beggar. Not, however, that Ronnie was a man to overreact. A boxer who said to him, "You've put on a bit of weight, haven't you?" he recalls, was soon the proud owner of 70 facial stitches. "One thing you can't do with Ron," she shrewdly observes, "was take a liberty." Tomorrow: how Ronnie has visited Kate from the other side.

And what will, we hope, become a daily ritual Sir Nicholas Lloyd calls [illegible] about Andrew Lloyd Webber's health. He is in a splendid bait. Having edited three national newspapers nothing surprises him any more, he tells my colleague Simon Bowers; but he cannot believe that we failed to publish his remarks about Andrew's illness — the coughing and wheezing which apparently prevented his Lordship from collecting his honorary degree from Goldsmith's College last week. But we did indeed publish them. "No you didn't," says Nick, "I have the Diary in front of me." It's confusing, even for three-time editors, but some might construe the words "Medical bulletin: Nick Lloyd calls . . .", at the bottom of yesterday's column, as a clue. "Oh yes," says an apologetic Sir Nick. As for Lord A's medical problem, this, he reveals, is "a tropical amoeba which recurs every month or so." So there we are: it was just Lord Andrew's time of the month.

WHETHER Sir Nick will be a candidate for the title of Drollest PR of the year it is too early to say — he does not take over Lord Andrew's publicity until October 1 — but a certain Frank Verweijen has already staked his claim. He has sent out a flysheet with news of "the highly acclaimed Bose Wave radio . . . It's the radio only Bose could make." Having mentioned the freephone number for ordering this unique device, one indeed that only Bose *could* make, Mr Verweijen adds an enticing PS. "Now you can enjoy the Bose Wave radio in an exciting new colour . . ." he concludes, "Graphite Grey." That's the clincher. We'll have two gross.

IT is good to see that the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority is getting to grips with the basics. A press release has arrived with a handwritten note on the cover page. "Infomation on reading recovery," it says.



Now let's hear what the IRA have to say

Commentary

Hugo Young

BRITAIN has spent so long refusing to negotiate with the IRA that the sight of Gerry Adams in the conference-room shocks to the quick. In the famous phrase, it turns your stomach. Martin McGuinness, his lieutenant, has blood on his hands, and Adams has the same commodity on his conscience if nowhere else. Dealing with the human face of terrorism, which swathes itself in rectitude, is almost more repellent than dealing with active gunmen. Yet, among the burdens of a political leader, a tolerance for stomach-turning ranks among the lighter obligations. Would that it had been shown years ago.

Like many other things in the modern era, we owe the contrary piety to Margaret Thatcher. In her time, it became axiomatic that men of volence should never be humoured by engagement with a British minister. The rule was simply not open for discussion. Whether as victims of Islamic extremism or Irish republican martyr-lust, a fair number of people suffered directly in the name of it. Terry Waite returned a hero, but a pointlessly damaged man. The last days of Bobby Sands, committing suicide by hunger-strike, attracted the indecent relish of a prime minister delighted with the opportunity to show how immovable she could be.

Such absolutism was not a policy, but a substitute for policy. Based on the simplistic theory that any concession to extremists would only excite further demands or repeat performances, its truth was challenged by the experience of other countries. France and Germany took a different line on hostages. Their people were usually bargained over, much sooner, and they did not suffer an increase in hijackings or hostage-takings. But Britain's posture prevailed throughout the Tory years, with results that were as catastrophic in policy as in individual terms.

The most flagrant case was that of Mandela. Our prime minister spent a decade proclaiming that, because the ANC had committed terrorist acts (though very few of them), its leader should be ostracised. Hansard is awash with statements of principle from her and many other ministers whose prophetic error should be as embarrassing to them as their absurd exaltation of Chief Buthelezi, a man whose followers were soon to show rather greater aptitude for butchery than Mandela's.

We want politicians with principles, but what they owe us above all is realism not pretence. By negotiating with the IRA, this is what Mr Blair, at last, is offering. Which is why, now that it has begun, the spectacle seems so obviously necessary as to have attracted the approval even of Mrs Thatcher's latest successor. So much for Conservatism's famous principles. Even the deftly Thatcherite Mr Hague, hedged around by proto-Thatcherites from way back, is apparently able to reject the point of principle that misguided British policy for so long.

Mr Blair's public reversal of strategy was prompted from an unlikely source, the security service. Northern Ireland was, naturally, one of the earliest subjects on which he was briefed, and he learned that, unless something was done to relieve the pressures, the province faced a possibly uncontrollable breakdown of order. The implication of this was the need for an initiative which he had little difficulty accepting, as, in a more obscure way, had his predecessor. But there was a critical difference between Mr Blair and Mr Major, in that Major, he whose stomach so famously churned, was obliged to mislead Parliament about the secret talks with Sinn Fein which he authorised and supervised for months.

Mr Blair's purpose is to bring the matter of Ulster, as far as he is able, out of the realm of brazen doctrine into the world from which most of its main actors wish to exclude it: that of political reality. In that world, it makes elementary sense to admit the IRA and to call it, moreover, by its proper name without the top-dressing of Sinn Fein. One piece of honesty deserves another. Just as Mr Blair can be open about his dealings, these should cease to be disguised behind the fatuities of Adams's and McGuinness's pretended disconnection from terrorism. One precondition of negotiating with terrorists has to be that they truly speak for the cause with which democratic leaders are prepared to meet and soil their hands.

Another is that the democrats should have democratic support for treating with anti-democrats. And here what has changed is the evidence that such realism extends beyond the British mainland, which has few delicate sensitivities

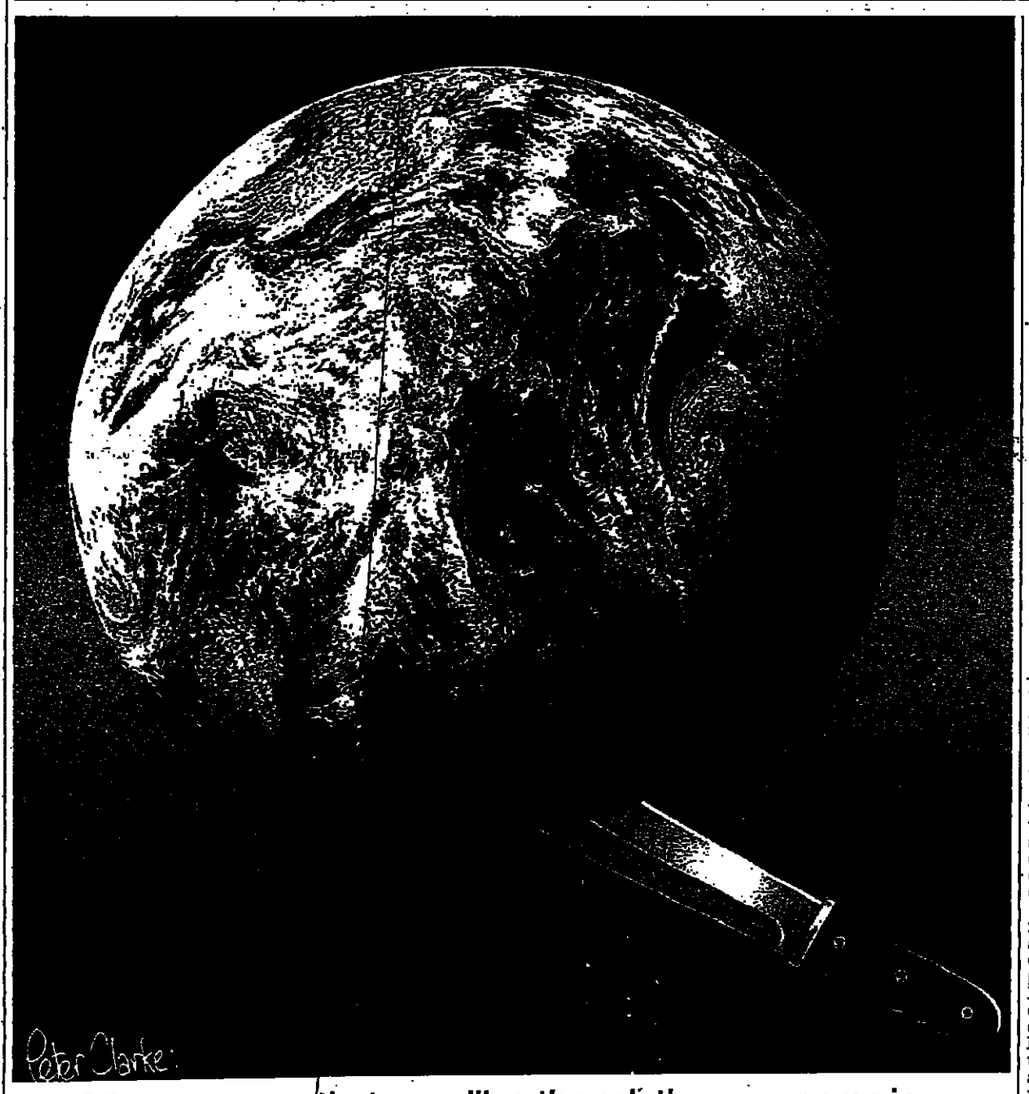
> The allies of Irish nationalism in the US have been forced to surrender their romantic fallacies

in the matter, to the streets of Ulster. At Westminster, the tidal wave of May 1 makes Blair invulnerable to the Unionist tyranny. In Belfast, even Mr Trimble, alongside his frantic posturing in the last ditch, feels pressure to speak the words that do not exclude him from the table.

By dealing with these terrorists, Blair is not committing an insult to democracy, as the inaugural rotundities of the Unionists declared. Quite the contrary. All stomachs may be turned by the presence of murderers and their apologists but, once drawn into talks, they can be put to the democratic question. This is the question which the tactics of Orangery have conspired to let them avoid for 30 years. Do they or do they not admit the principle of consent as the immutable basis of any Northern Ireland settlement?

The presumption is that their answer is in the negative. That is what the bombings and the murders of 30 years have been about. It does remain, quite obviously, the answer of some significant Republicans. But it is no longer the answer of politics. Dublin governments long since abandoned it. The allies of Irish nationalism, in Washington and even Boston, have been forced to surrender their romantic fallacies. Only the exclusion forced upon them by successive manifestations of British Conservatism has afforded the IRA's own leaders the luxury of pretending that the question need not be addressed. Grandly refusing to deal with terrorists, while being an intelligible emotional response from time to time, has been, as a British strategy for three decades, a manifest disaster, the scale of which can be measured in the graveyards of Fermanagh and Tyrone.

Now we have another strategy. It attracts the fulminations of moralists against something of which morality is a futile test. Still they posture, 30 years on. The strategy may not work, because the IRA may not have what it takes to pass the democratic test they have set themselves. But the proper test does now exist. By coming to the table, Adams and McGuinness oblige themselves to express an opinion. They allow their bluff to be called. By comparison with this, arms-decommissioning, for example, is an irrelevance: yet another distraction from the only issue which, in Unionism's own interest, matters.



David Hirst warns that appalling though the massacres in Algeria may be, far worse will follow if the present regime falls

Escalation of blood

THE thing that most shocks about the Algerian civil war is its terrifying ferocity, its wanton barbarity and, above all perhaps, the fact that, on the insurgents' side, it is ostensibly conducted in the name of one of the world's great religions. Naturally enough, it is that which commands the headlines, since this is a war the outside world knows so little about, for it is conducted far from international scrutiny, both because of the inherent difficulty of covering such a conflict and because the regime so rigorously excludes or controls the outside observer.

Only occasional glimpses of these atrocities are vouchsafed to us. This week's massacre came to our attention because it took place in a location, on the very edge of the capital, which made it impossible for the regime to hide. Yet even these glimpses are sufficient and familiar enough to reduce the frightful inhumanity to a kind of banality. At Bentalha the 40 [illegible] men, presumably members of Groupes Islamiques Armees (GIA), did nothing particularly unusual for them when they cut the throats of 200 women and children, or burned them to death.

And that in spite of the fact that they are clearly for ever in search of fresh refinements of extremism, cruelty and barbarism, or — more interestingly perhaps — the ideological justification for it. Recently, for example, a group has reportedly emerged within the GIA which takes its extremism to new, preposterous and clearly blasphemous lengths. Calling itself The Rebels Against God, its members reportedly cut off the index finger of their right hand — that being the one with which devout Muslims make their profession of faith — their eyelashes and eyebrows. They single out young women for their holy terror, especially pregnant ones, so as to prevent them from giving birth to new Muslims. They have turned against the Almighty himself because he has abandoned them in their quest for the establishment of the perfect "Islamic state". If this suggests that Algerians have a natural bent for extremism, historians and sociologists tend to agree.

It makes for a striking contrast with that other North African country, Egypt, with a serious Islamist insurgency. Where Egypt has all the gentleness associated with a sedentary agrarian society, Algeria has all the sharp passions of desert tribalism. This natural disposition has been exacerbated by recent historical experience. There was the extremism, cruelty and massive cultural disruption of French colonial conquest and occupation. Then there was the barbarism of the anti-colonial liberation war, which, in addition to the mistrust of the foreigner, left a perhaps even more bitter legacy of internal animosities, caused by such fratricidal violence as the massacre of tens of thousands of "harkis", or pro-French collaborators, in the aftermath of independence.

IT IS natural to compare and contrast Egypt's and Algeria's Islamist terror. In Egypt, the government has "contained" its insurgents, now largely confining them to the Upper Egyptian provinces from where they first came. While it would be wrong to attribute the contrast with Algerian counterparts entirely to the extremist temper of the people, it is certainly one very important reason. And it is certainly true that extremism is now dictating the course of the struggle.

It is not, of course, just the extremism the world most hears about, that of the Islamic fanatics. It is that of the regime as well. The military-backed government of General Liamin Zeroual proclaims itself a believer in secularism, democracy, pluralism, and all the basic Western-style freedoms.

But, in reality, the hard-line generals are little more wedded, in their behaviour, to the true spirit of democracy and tolerance than the GIA are representative exponents of the teachings of the prophet Mohamed.

There is much that is obscure, almost indecipherable in this barbarous civil war. Many elements of it — some of them, like clan, family and community vendettas that are rooted in the country's harsh history — have now grafted themselves on to the central struggle. They undoubtedly greatly exacerbate and widen it, and render its eventual outcome all the more unpredictable.

That central struggle is between the regime as a whole and its public constituency on the one hand and, on the other, the Islamist movement as a whole, both the original Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the GIA fanatics which grew up in its shadow. It is a consistent, ongoing reality at the heart of much that is so chaotic and obscure. Almost as consistent is the secondary struggle to which it gives rise, that which the extremists in both camps wage against their own moderates. This is sometimes only latent, or low-level, but it always takes on a more intense, often murderous form, whenever it looks as though the moderates of either camp are groping towards some basis for negotiation.

AND that, clearly, is more than ever the case now. For months the regime has been engaged in secret talks with the FIS, and its military arm, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), already in a state of *de facto* truce with the army. In July, it released the FIS's "historic chief", Sheikh Abbas Madani, from jail. It seems to have been a much more serious initiative than usual, in that Zeroual and the moderates had succeeded in winning the involvement of some of the generals usually associated with the regime's "eradicationist" faction, led by General Muhammad Lamari, the chief of staff.

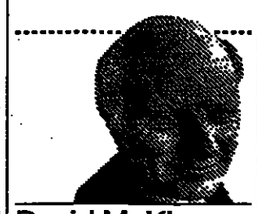
But within six weeks of his release Madani was told to stop all political activities. His crime? In response to an appeal by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan for tolerance and dialogue in Algeria, he had declared himself "ready to launch an appeal for an end to the bloodshed". That was apparently too much for Lamari and his henchmen, fiercely opposed to the internationalisation of a conflict which they have always deemed to be their exclusive preserve.

Meanwhile, in the Islamist camp, the cleavage betweeen the FIS mother organisation and its dissident, demonic GIA offspring has been growing steadily. Its exiled leadership has openly called on the Algerian people to resist fellow Islamists who disgrace Islam's name. And by merely working for a ceasefire, Madani was provoking a comparable reaction from the GIA.

It resorted to yet more massacres, and, if possible, to more atrocious ones. But the really alarming thing is their location in the capital itself. Is it because the army is now so weak and overstretched that the GIA is able to carry out its massacres with the seeming assurance that soldiers in nearby barracks will not intervene? Or is it because, in some mad consummation of extremist logic, eradicators and Islamist fanatics have now gone beyond what was already obvious — that they serve each other's purpose in sabotaging the moderates' plans — to reach the point of operational collaboration or at least inter-penetration?

Neither explanation bodes well for the regime. One suggests that it is not very far from being overwhelmed; the other that it is so rent by divisions that it could disintegrate from within. One thing is sure: its fall would make all current massacres pale into insignifance.

Contentment when the killing stopped



David McKie

THE PSYCHOLOGIST Oliver James has written a book about why we are so unhappy. Compared with the thrifty, testing, austerity-haunted 50s, we are riddled with angst going on to full-scale depression, we quarrel with those we marry and those we meet on the road, we eat too much, drink too much, are too fond of drugs and gambling, and constitute in general a fair old picture of misery.

James offers plenty of explanations. The advanced capitalist world, he argues, constantly throws up grounds for being dissatisfied. Media saturation and inescapable advertising drive us constantly to compare ourselves and our lots with others: "excessive and maladjusted social comparison" he calls it. Competitive individualism, though we can't keep away from it, is driving us mad.

Yet to those who remember the 50s, there's another difference, at least as essential as any of these. Contentment does not come only from good things happening — it also comes from awful things stopping. And the 50s seemed to be full of awful things stopping.

The war, for a start. Take the mid point of the 50s — 1955, when the Conservatives under Eden were returned with an increased majority. Anyone over 20 in 1955 remembered the second world war, a war which killed some 300,000 service men, some 30,000 merchant seamen, and over 60,000 civilians. Few families were untouched. Any man over 30 then might well have fought in that war: most others had some sad cause to remember it too. Anyone much over 50 remembered the first world war too, in which some 750,000 Britons were killed. Now we had peace — an uncertain peace, threatened by events like the blockade of Berlin and the war in Korea, but peace nonetheless.

Many in the mid-1950s also remembered the Britain of the 1930s, the one you can read about in, for example, Orwell's account in The Road To Wigan Pier of home and working life in Wigan, Barnsley and Sheffield, and the dreadful, disease-ridden housing to to which families were consigned. But 1939-45 was known as the People's War, and the people were determined that the years which followed would be the people's peace, in which their efforts, sacrifice and sufferings would be properly honoured. That was one reason why, while not stinting their thanks to Churchill for winning the war, they threw him out in favour of Attlee.

By the mid-50s, a solid start had been made in tearing down the filthy slums of Wigan and Sheffield, and everywhere else, with the Tories accelerating the pace of demolition and rebuilding they inherited from Labour. Beveridge had identified the five scourges — want, ignorance, squalor, idleness and disease — and Labour, creating the welfare state, had begun to smite them. One sign of that progress, in matters which touch the deepest springs of people's happiness, was the greater survival of new-born children. The rate of deaths of infants under one year, per 1,000 live births, was 57 in 1935 and in 1940; by 1950 it was down to 30; by the end of the decade it had fallen to 22. Partly because of that improvement, life expectancy rose from 59 for men and 63 for women in the early thirties, to 68 and 74 respectively at the end of the 50s.

The late 40s were often tough. Rationing, initially eased, had to be reimposed. The fuel crisis of 1946-47 — the cruellest winter of the century and the heating off everywhere — was a time of real privation. And yet people could take it. Bad though things were, there was still a feeling that the worst had gone and would not return. Though it lost in 1951, Labour polled the greatest vote in its history. For 12 years after the 1945 election, no government lost a seat at a byelection (in 1953, the Conservatives even gained one). And now and again, some dream which people had clung to when the world was at its darkest came true. One of the silly songs that people sang in the war began: "I'm going to get lit up when the lights come on in London." And at last, when the power supplies were strong enough to sustain it, they did, in London and in all the big cities. In Leeds, and no doubt most other places were similar, great gangs of excited people touring the streets marvelled and gasped over displays which nowadays we wouldn't waste a minute on. What today is taken for granted was in those days precious.

TALKING to survivors of war, or reading a recreation like Sebastian Faulks's Birdsong, it sometimes seems that the gulf between them and us is unbridgeable. Even those who experienced war as civilians have a memory, a dimension, barely explicable to those who knew nothing of it. The contentment of the 50s reflected a range of experience which is not only missing today but is scarcely even remembered. Oliver James should stir it into his pot.

Britain On The Couch, by Oliver James (Century £16.99)



Judith Merril

Future world of a feminist

JUDITH Merril, who has died aged 74, wrote science fiction in her early years, produced influential SF anthologies in her middle years, and, in the last two decades of her life, after moving from the United States to Canada in protest at the Vietnam war, became well-known on Canadian television.

In the 1940s she became a feminist and thus found herself isolated within a field dominated by male authors and editors. Faced by what she deemed sexism from within and obtuse dismissal from without, and lacking the wiles that might obscure from insecure males the extent of her talents or the cogency of her advocacy of causes to which she dedicated herself, she soon became famous for her sharp mind and her short fuse.

She addressed a world which often dismissed science fiction as children's literature, which did not improve the patience of someone who did not suffer fools gladly.

She was born Josephine Juliet Grossman in New York City. After a teenage marriage, and years spent campaigning against the second world war, her first story, *That Only a Mother* was published in Astounding Science Fiction magazine in 1948. Its unabashed focus on a mother's traumatised response to nuclear armageddon caused some stir.

In 1949 she married the science fiction writer Frederik Pohl; they divorced in 1953. A third marriage ended in 1975.

Her first novel *Shadow On The Hearth* and her first anthology *Shot In The Dark* were published in 1950. She directed the Milford Science Fiction Writers Conference from 1956 to 1961.

Merril was not a prolific writer and did not waste words. Two novels in collaboration with Cyril Kornbluth — who also co-wrote several books with Pohl — were comparatively routine. But the stories assembled in *Daughters Of Earth* (1958), *Out Of Bounds* (1960) and *Survival Ship* (1976) demonstrated how science fiction could be used from a feminist perspective to explore issues ranging from women's role in society to eugenics, from racism to war. She helped create science fiction as a genre fit for women to argue in.



Merril . . . scabrous humour

But she remains more important, perhaps, for her anthologies. Early selections demonstrated wide reading — she was adept at scouring non-SF journals for SF stories published for reason of commercial camouflage without the label. In 1956, she began an extremely influential *Year's Best* anthology series, which ran to 12 volumes. And in 1968, after some time in England, she published *England Swings SF* (1968), a silly title which failed to disguise the importance of the work.

It presented to the English-speaking world the first fruits of what became new wave science fiction. Authors like Brian Aldiss, J G Ballard and Michael Moorcock based their speculative fictions as much on French surrealism as on Robert A Heinlein; Merril's publicising of the new form did much to expand awareness of science fiction as an adult literature.

After moving to Canada in 1968, Merril suffered writer's block and wrote almost no more fiction. In 1970, she donated her superbly selected 5,000-volume science fiction library to the Toronto Public Library where they formed the core of what was first called the Spaced Out Library and since 1991 the Merril Collection. It is now the world's largest publicly housed SF collection.

I first met Merril in 1977. She was something of a fabulous figure in Canadian literary and media life. Raunchy, with a scabrous sense of humour, she had a mongoose glare, and little social patience. She was already full of memories, and was very decidedly not averse to gossip.

She loved talking about the rather large number of men, most of them science fiction writers, she had slept with mostly, it seemed, between about 1945 and 1960. It had been a very full life, and in 1977 she expected it to continue at full spate, though she was already contemplating writing some sort of memoir.

It is not clear how much of that was actually composed over the next 20 years. Her heart was bad, and she paid little heed to maintaining good health. She drank, smoked, joked, stayed very much alive. Her fame, at least in Canada, increased.

I last saw her in June, when she was using a motorised wheelchair to increase her mobility. She knew she was going to die soon. She seemed indifferent to death, but hated the idea of dying. However, she grinned and bore it.

She leaves two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John Clute

Judith Merril (Josephine Juliet Grossman), science fiction writer, born January 21, 1923; died September 12, 1997

Stig Anderson



Clowning around . . . Stig Anderson (right) with Abba

Keeping Abba on song

STIG Anderson, who has died aged 66, was the manager and "fifth member" of Abba, the Swedish quartet whom he once claimed in 1978, with some justification, to be the most successful group in pop music history.

A former school teacher, he turned to pop music in the 1950s with "Stig Anderson and his Mashed Creampuffs". He also wrote hundreds of songs in English — the only language, he said, for pop composers with global ambitions, a conviction he impressed upon Abba. His own first hit was *Rockin' Billy (1960)*, which sold well in the Netherlands and Scandinavia.

By 1963 Anderson had set up his Sweden Music publishing company and Polar Music record label. In that year he signed a group called the West Bay Singers — whom he renamed the Hootenanny Singers — led by Bjorn Ulvaeus, who subsequently teamed up with Benny Andersson from the Hep Cats, the "Swedish Beatles". With Benny and Bjorn, Anderson composed songs for singers signed to the Polar label and for the first album by the duo. This recording also included the voices of Anni-Frid Lyngstad and Agnetha Feltskog. Soon afterwards the quartet was launched to compete in the Swedish qualifying heat of the 1973 Eurovision Song Contest. Their song, *Ring Ring*, narrowly lost, but the following year Abba (the choice of name was Anderson's) won the contest itself with *Waterloo*.

Anderson co-wrote the lyrics with his protégé Bjorn, but the increasing popularity of the group led him away from a creative contribution to a managerial one. He had the tunnel vision common to the most effective artist managers, being devoted to Abba's interests and confident of their supreme talent and success.

In an era when many other Swedish musicians were politically active, the frothy pop of Abba was not always honoured at home and Anderson lashed out at his fellow Swedes, claiming that "if we were English we would be getting honours from the Queen by now".

For a few years in the late 1970s Abba sold more records than any other act and Anderson's determination to maximise their earnings led to unique barter agreements with Soviet bloc companies. The Russians, Poles and Romanians use art treasures, toys, raincoins and even Polish potatoes to pay for Abba tapes and records. Finally, Anderson set up a company to deal in oil futures, but lost millions when world oil prices collapsed in the early 1980s. Tax losses and accusations of tax evasion by Anderson and the group soured relations between him and Abba. All four members sued him for loss of royalties.

During the 1980s Abba's reputation fell but interest in the group grew again at the end of the decade. 1989, Anderson sold the Abba back-catalogue to PolyGram which proceeded to sell millions of compact discs of the group's hits. That year Anderson also set up and funded the Polar Music Prize with the Swedish Royal Academy of Music. Each year one classical and pop musician or composer is awarded one million crowns (about £250,000).

The Anderson involvement with the music industry is maintained by his daughter Marie, whose first job was as marketing manager for her father. She now runs her own Anderson Records company — its artists include former Abba singer Anni-Frid Lyngstad.

Dave Laing

Stikkan Anderson, music entrepreneur, born January 25, 1931; died September 12, 1997

Bryan Ingham

A life in art on the Lizard

BRYAN Ingham, who has died of cancer aged 61, was perhaps one of the finest etchers of the latter part of this century. He was also a painter and sculptor of international distinction, whose oeuvre in recent years started to receive the appreciation it had long deserved.

Ingham once said that the chance place of his birth, Preston, just across the frontier from his native Yorkshire, made him feel an outsider in his own county because it disqualified him from playing cricket for Yorkshire (although he did get a trial at Bramall Lane on the strength of one superb leg glide, which he had learned from cigarette cards of the great Ranji). He recently reflected that this same feeling underlay his artistic and personal life.

Ingham was brought up in the close-knit back-to-back terrace community of the textile towns in Yorkshire's Calder valley. His father George was a buyer for menswear store chains, and Ingham's first job, at 16, was as an assistant in the gents' outfitters of an old-fashioned Sheffield department store. This background produced a love of tradition, and respect for the work ethic which never left him.

Ingham disliked his grammar school, though under his Uncle Leslie's influence he was an avid reader from an early age. His introduction to drawing came in the Scouts through an enlightened lady examiner whose name he forgot but whose romantic rural landscapes he clearly recalled. From then on he always had a block or sketch book about him.

The mannered, slightly pretentious young man who joined the RAF for national service in 1954 gained immensely from the experience. His contemporaries called him "professor", and his officers soon wrote him off as artistic, after which he was left very much to his own devices.

Ingham profited from this by teaching himself to paint well enough to be accepted at St Martin's School of Art in 1957. There, under teachers including Vivian Pitchforth, Archibald Ziegler and the wood engraver Clifford Webb, he acquired a technique to amaze Edward Morse and Frederick Gore, then the principal and head of painting respectively; he also attracted the interest of the late Carel Weight from the Royal College of Art, where Ingham then went (as a contemporary of David Hockney).

At the RCA, Ingham's youthful temper and apparent arrogance made him powerful enemies, and though he was Royal Scholar after his first year, at graduation in 1964 he was given a poor degree. His critics were confounded at the diploma show, however, when Ingham had 13 offers of jobs when only six out of the 26 students showing found employment.



Bryan Ingham . . . a love of tradition and respect for the work ethic

PHOTOGRAPH: ELLUNED MORGAN/FRANCIS GRAHAM-DIXON GALLERY

While at the RCA, Ingham was asked by Lord Perth to undertake some delicate restoration work at his home, Stobhall, in Scotland. The commission developed into a lifelong and highly successful sub-plot of Ingham's career, which gave both men much pleasure and leaves a unique body of work.

After two years of teaching, Ingham spent a year in his beloved Italy with the help of a Leverhulme award, including six months at the British Academy in Rome. A year after his return, Ingham felt the need to get away from the competitive London art milieu to develop his work.

So began 25 years at Jollytown, a remote and primitive cottage on the Lizard, from where he emerged for important periods in St Ives, London and Worpswede in Germany, while developing an incomparable etching technique.

Ingham described his art's purpose as "to beg, borrow, consolidate and synthesise; to add even, to the classical tradition of harmony and contained chance," and this sourcing of inspiration came as much from art as from his environment. His later work hovers on the boundary between representation and abstraction.

Ingham worked with immense energy. He would, as he put it "carve and quarry" his plates, which were often worked and reworked to such paper thinness that they had to be rebacked. It produced a sculptural quality which is a feature of most of his art.

Ingham's preoccupation with female form was one which found a good deal of practical expression in his life — through a number of cherished relationships — as in his art. He married late, to Aysel Özäkin, the writer and poet, from whom he was later divorced but to whom he remained very close.

His many friends from all walks of life relished his powers as debater and raconteur, particularly of poetry (he knew many favourites by heart). He loved music and his legendary hospitality included a cuisine in which boiled sheep was a our de force. He was a lifelong cycling enthusiast, remembering his move to Cornwall as the day Tommy Simpson died in the Tour de France.

But above all Bryan Ingham was a private and spiritual man who chose to open himself fully mainly in the powerful artistic statements which are his legacy.

Jonathan Wynne Evans

George Bryan Ingham, artist, born June 17, 1936; died September 22, 1997

Birthdays

Struther Arnott, principal and vice-chancellor, St Andrews University, 63; **Norman Ayrton**, theatre and opera director, 73; **Ronnie Barker**, comedian, 68; **Jane Bradford**, banker, 51; **Sir Leon Brittan QC**, EU commissioner, 58; **Sir Colin Davis**, conductor, 70; **Martin Dermott**, rugby league player, 30; **Michael Douglas**, actor, 53; **Andrew Gardner**, newscaster, 65; **Mike Gibbs**, jazz composer, 60; **John Hills**, racehorse trainer, 37; **Sir David Hunt**, former diplomat and Mastermind champion of champions (1982), 84; **Catherine Zeta Jones**, actress, 28; **Felicity Kendal**, actress, 51; **Jodie Kidd**, supermodel, 19; **Prof Sir William Mitchell**, physicist, 72; **Christopher Reeve**, actor, 45; **Tim Severin**, explorer and author, 57; **Vivien Stern**, director, Nacro, 56; **Commandant Daphne Swallow**, former director, WRNS, 65; **John Taylor**, jazz pianist, composer, 55; **Gareth Thomas**, Labour MP, 43; **Rowena Vining**, diplomat, 76; **Barbara Walters**, television journalist, 66; **Nicholas Wood**, former president, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 49.

Death Notices

GANT, Hilda. Née Bunting died 27/9/97 aged 90. Enquiries to T.Gant, 53 Southdean Gardens, London. SW19 6NT.

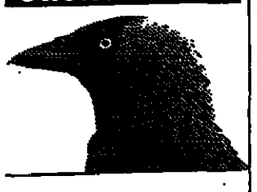
KAUFMANN. Maurice Herrington, on September 21st after a long battle courageously fought, loving father of Lottie and Barnaby. Service will take place on Monday 29th September at West London Crematorium at 11.30am. No flowers please but donations to Cancer Relief Macmillan Nurses.

PICKUP, Mavis Mary of Gee Cross, Hyde, on 22nd September 1997, peacefully at home, much loved wife of the late Kenneth, mother of James and Jonathan and grandmother of Oliver, Guy and Katherine. Funeral Service at 12 noon on Friday, September 26th at Holy Trinity Church, Gee Cross, Hyde followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu if desired to The British Heart Foundation. Enquiries Kenkordy's Funeral Service, tel: 0161 330 1921.

WOODS, S. John, painter and graphic designer 21/11/1918-22/9/1997. Very much loved and missed. Funeral at Barham Crematorium, Friday 26/9/1997 at 9.30am.

To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

Jackdaw



Zip Yo' Mouth

KITTY Kelley has also decided to take on the whole Windsor dynasty from 1917. This involves a grim trudge through overfamiliar territory. You want to hear about Wallis Simpson *again*? . . . The ideal reader for this book might be the GI equivalent of those Japanese soldiers who every so often stumble out of the bushes to salute the Emperor. So, tell me: the little princesses — Lilibet and was it Meg? — what became of them. No, they didn't! . . .

The main concern, of course, is sex. Larry Adler, in 1992, quotes himself as having told Prince Philip, back when he was marrying Elizabeth, "be glad your zipper can't talk". But it can. If no man is a hero to his valet, he is even less of a one to his trousers and, in the end, the zipper always talks. Her name is Kitty Zipper.

The larger, hotter rumours are interesting for the way they are presented and justified as for what they contain. Princess Margaret and the future Lord Snowdon, for instance, were "petite-rebels who chain-smoked cigarettes and slavered over pornographic movies." Hard to know which sin is deemed the greater, but check out that trailer-park verb. How do you watch a porn movie? You slaver over it, of course. What did you expect — "The Snowdons watched pornographic movies with a Germanic sense of royal duty"? But if they were slavering, who saw them slaver? How does Kitty Zipper know? Forty-three pages on we get an answer. Somehow misplaying her earlier certainty, she writes: "The Italian magazine Men ran a cover story on the 'wild and intimate' parties of the Snowdons, citing an alleged passion for pornography." Suddenly it's only "alleged". And what might be the solidity of Men as a source? And what, Kitty, is the Italian for "slaver"?

Julian Barnes having a little wicked fun in the New Yorker.

Jurassic sharks

THE broadnosed sixgill shark usually inhabits dark waters 200 to 1,500m down. For reasons still unknown, it rises to shallow water, within 10 metres of the surface . . . is most commonly spotted at key sites around Vancouver Island, Canada. Unlike its modern five-gilled cousins, most of whom came on the scene some 50 million years later, very little is known about the sixgill. Fossil records reveal that it hasn't changed much over the last 150 million years. Its diet mainly consists of dogfish, sharks, crabs and other crustaceans. There is only one dorsal fin, close to the tail. And it has big green eyes . . . Efforts to study it in captivity have not met with much success. The Vancouver Aquarium has made a few attempts to study the sixgill, but in captivity every one had lost its equilibrium after a few days, and died.

Andrew Bell, Dtoe Magazine.

Experiental

THERE is an empty space here in no apparent hurry to get filled. A great roof is going up, and it does not know what it will cover. One might draw the comparison with a government with a large majority and no ideology; a roof of consensus over echoing political emptiness. There seems to be no clamour of ideas. When people involved in the Millennium Dome talk of the space beneath it, they use architectural comparisons of scale. You could get two Wembley Stadiums in there, they say; you could put one Nelson's Column on another . . . The suspicion is these are perhaps the best ideas anyone has had. . .

We know "fun" will be had. We know there will be a central space, seating 10,000, in which a Cameron Mackintosh theatrical event on a theme of Time will play continuously (which must be someone's idea of fun). And around the edge of this, filling most of the Dome's floor space, something else will happen, which we must not call an exhibition. It will be divided into zones, including it is said, a chill zone, and it will be an "experience", which is Peter Mandelson's word. . .

It seems a peculiar way to go about things: a nation presents itself to the world with a primary school project conceived by designers. This is Bluebird Britain [named after Sir Terence Conran's foodie complex in London's King's Road], where designers make decisions, not poets, scientists and philosphers. Stephen Bayley is at pains to explain that his winning designers are likely to make consultations beyond their state-of-the-art offices, to talk to the experts. But he is sure that the Millennium Company has got things the right way around, that design has the idea, does not transmit it. "If you can make the British public interested in aesthetically advanced Italian teapots," he told me, "then you can make them interested in philosophical questions like the existence of God. . ."

I asked Bayley if people buying their vegetables in the Bluebird vegetable stall were getting closer to God. "Yes," he said. "Of course . . . I think any healthy relationship with a vegetable is a quasi-religious act."

The trouble is — we think he means it. Ian Parker in the new Modern Review.



The New Yorker: wicked fun

Undercover

I SOLD underwear for a living — women's lingerie. I did so for more than 10 years, in shops on Madison, Fifth and Lexington. It was not what I envisioned doing . . . My dresser is stuffed with lace bras, G-strings, garter belts, stockings, all the lingerie that a woman could ever hope to own, or that a man could dream of removing. I never wear it, any of it. Long ago I gave up thinking that a black lace garter belt was invested with a kind of magic. Nevertheless, these were the accoutrements of seduction I sold to other women, and, on occasion, men. They bought them, and if they didn't, well then, I was my job to persuade them. When women undress and stand before a mirror, their bodies tell the story of their lives. Every joy and disappointment, from the saggig, diminished breast where a child has suckled, to the almost surrealistically perky silicone implant, is registered in the flesh. I was witness to acts of violence (the bluish-purple bruises that appeared like pansies on the skin) and acts of love (the belly swollen with a baby). I can even testify to the brush with death: the breast that simply wasn't there at all.

Six days a week, from 11am to 7pm, I lived in a world of intimacy, and it wasn't always easy. Sometimes I didn't know how to respond. Recently a woman came in and informed me: "You probably can't help me." As I led her to the dressing room, I assured her that I could. Hesitantly, she lifted her loose-fitting sweater. She wore no bra, and did not need to explain why: she had three breasts.

Janifer Dumas in memoir mode in the New York Times Magazine.

You can E-mail us at jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Edited by Vanessa Harlow

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هكذا من الأصل

US challenge or aerospace, page 12

Tomorrow: Laura Ashley 'Aga saga' latest

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9[illegible]0
Fax: 0171-833-4456

FinanceGuardian

Sir Lawrie Barratt retires to cultivate his estates

SIR Lawrie Barratt, under and out-going chairman of construction firm Barratt, is one of the few Tynesiders who could not care less about the fortunes of Newcastle United, *writes Sarah Ryle.* Unveiling his last set of annual profits yesterday, he said he will be spending his imminent retirement upgrading his three large estates rather than in the traditional executive pursuit of sporting interests like golf or horse racing.

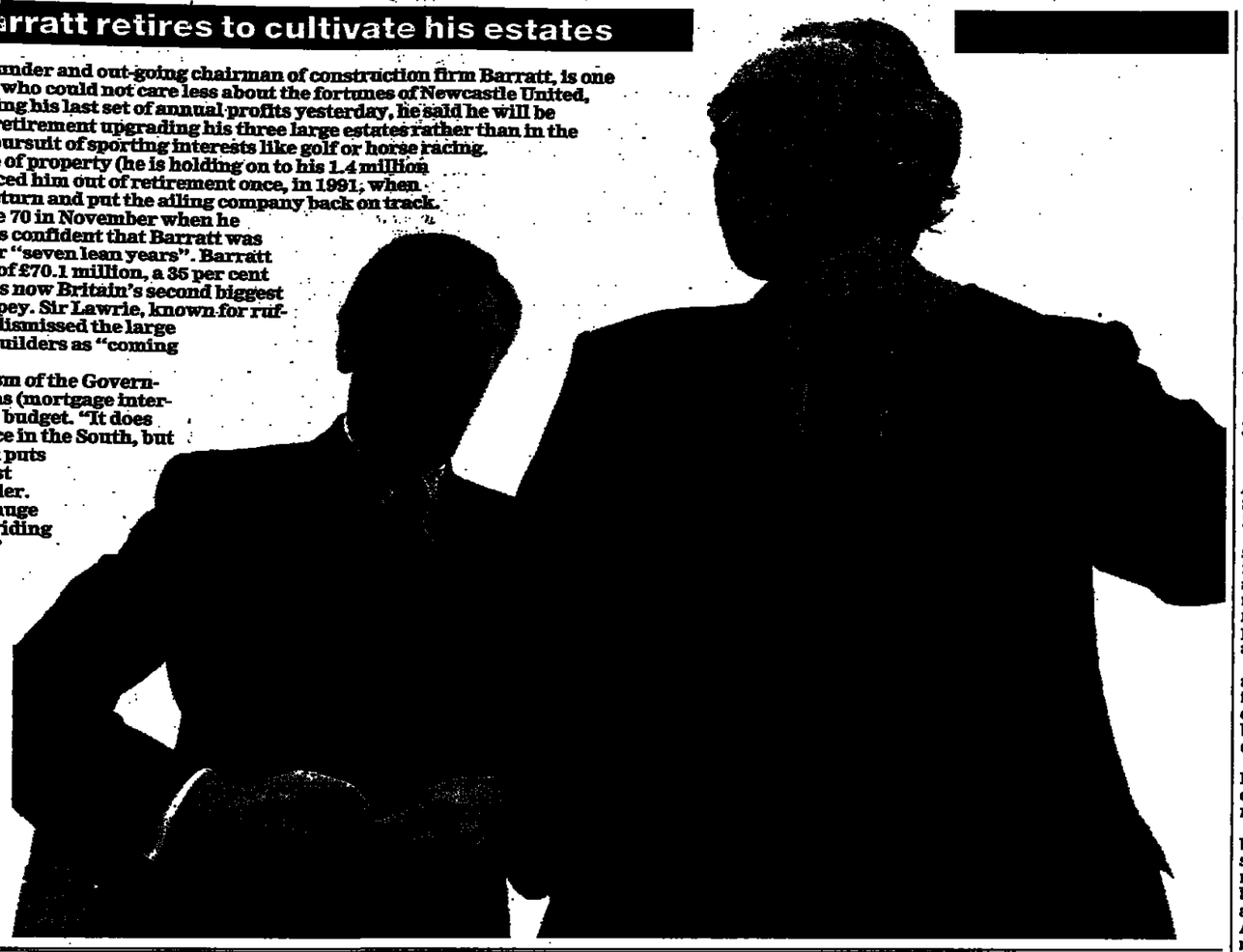
His self-confessed love of property (he is holding on to his 1.4 million shares) has already enticed him out of retirement once, in 1991, when Barratt begged him to return and put the ailing company back on track.

Sir Lawrie, who will be 70 in November when he retires again, said he was confident that Barratt was "ahead of the pack" after "seven lean years". Barratt reported pre-tax profits of £70.1 million, a 35 per cent increase on last year. It is now Britain's second biggest housebuilder after Wimpey. Sir Lawrie, known for ruffling industry feathers, dismissed the large rises reported by other builders as "coming from very low levels".

He renewed his criticism of the Government's reduction of Miras (mortgage interest tax-relief) in the July budget. "It does not make much difference in the South, but it matters elsewhere and puts people off joining the first rung of the property ladder. We are returning to the huge public sector cost of providing housing of years ago."

His chief executive, Frank Eatough, pictured with Sir Lawrie yesterday, said Barratt is on course to meet its target of completing the sale of 11,000 new homes each year by 2000 — though this year's figure was 7,710, less than 700 up on last year's figure.

Mr Eatough will hold the joint role of chief executive and chairman from November when an as-yet-unappointed managing director will also join the board.



PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH

£5bn takeover will create second largest US securities firm as frenzy grows in financial sector

Travelers to buy Salomon

By Tran in New York

TRAVELERS Group, the financial services company, yesterday unveiled a $9billion plus (£5 billion) deal to buy Salomon Inc, Wall Street's pre-eminent trading firm.

The deal, creating a world-class powerhouse, is the latest in a wave of mergers that has swept the US financial sector, combining brokers, banks and insurers in the face of a European challenge.

Travelers will combine Salomon Brothers' investment banking arm with its Smith Barney brokerage unit to form America's second largest US securities firm.

The new company — Salomon Smith Barney — will have $9 billion in equity capital, ranking it behind Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Discover, following their $10.6 billion merger in February, and ahead of Merrill Lynch.

It will further enrich Warren Buffett, the so-called Sage of Omaha, who helped rescue Salomon in 1991 with a 19 per cent stake and Deryck Maughan, Salomon Brothers' British-born chairman and chief executive who will become co-chief executive of the new firm.

Salomon's decision to fold itself into a large institution hastens the end of an era in investment banking, where relatively small firms enjoyed prestige and clout far outweighing their size. Only Goldman Sachs remains as a force from the golden era of investment banking.

Mr Maughan, the son of a Durham miner, yesterday underlined the need to adapt to new conditions, marked by the looming presence of institutions with much greater resources at their disposal. "The times are changing and we must change with them. Of all the possible combinations we could make, this is the most attractive — from both a cultural as well as a business point of view. Salomon and Smith Barney are a natural fit," he said.

Mr Maughan, a former UK Treasury official, will serve as co-chief executive of the merged firm with James Dimon, chairman and CEO of Smith Barney. There is already speculation as to how the two will work together as such power sharing arrangements are notoriously difficult to pull off.

Described as a whiz kid, the 41-year-old Mr Dimon at Smith Barney was the youngest CEO of a major securities firm and is not known for his diplomatic finesse. He once told an employee who floated an idea: "That is the stupidest thing I ever heard."

Mr Maughan was very much the driving force behind the deal. In the new landscape being redrawn by the Federal Reserve and Congress, blurring the lines between commercial and investment banking, Salomon risked being dwarfed by new rivals.

European giants such as Deutsche Bank and Union Bank of Switzerland are muscling into American investment banking, while domestic players have been forced to form their own alliances.

The deal combines Salomon's expertise in bond trading and investment banking and its international presence with Smith Barney's reach through its retail brokerage business.

Smith Barney is also strong in municipal finance and asset management.

Mr Buffett said: "Over several decades, Sandy (Sanford Weill, Travelers' chairman) has demonstrated genius in creating huge value for his shareholders by skilfully managing acquisitions in the financial services industry." Mr Buffett is not expected to sell his Salomon shares in the near future.

Travelers expects to take a restructuring charge of $400 million to $500 million as there will be jobs cuts.

Cowboy culture behind scandal and decline

IN ITS heyday Salomon Brothers epitomised the swashbuckling approach to investment banking, making huge bets with its own money in the bond market, *writes Mark Tran.*

Salomon lorded over Wall Street in the 1980s. Chairman John Gutfreund paid himself $3.1 million (£2 million) in 1986, making him the highest paid executive in investment banking, and was dubbed The King of Wall Street by Business Week.

Salomon was the place to be in the 1980s as ambitious university graduates beat a path to Wall Street's premier trading house, where head bond trader John Meriwether made hundreds of millions of dollars for the firm.

There is a famous tale recounted in Liar's Poker, written by ex-Salomonite Michael Lewis, of Mr Gutfreund wanting to play a single hand liar's poker with Mr Meriwether.

In the game, each player holds a dollar bill close to his chest and each attempts to fool the others about serial numbers printed on the face of the dollar bill.

It was a game filled with bluffs and double-bluffs, not unlike the business of trading.

On this particular occasion, Mr Gutfreund proposed to Mr Meriwether: "One hand, one million dollars, no tears." Mr Meriwether countered by saying: "I'd rather play for real money. Ten million dollars. No tears."

It was Salomon's cowboy culture that led it to scandal and the brink of disaster. In April 1991 Mr Gutfreund was told by subordinates that Paul Mozer, then the head of government bond trading, had admitted to making a false bid in the name of a customer in a February bond auction.

It was agreed that government officials should be told. Inexplicably, Mr Guifreund failed to act and Mr Mozer pulled the same stunt again and scandal swamped the firm in August.

There were congressional hearings and, for a moment, the unthinkable seemed possible: Salomon would go out of business, following in the footsteps of Drexel Burnham Lambert, the junk bond house dragged down by Michael Milken.

Salomon survived, by coming clean and above all by bringing in Warren Buffett, America's most beloved investor, as interim chairman of Salomon's parent company, Salomon Inc. The swashbuckling days of Salomon were over.

Mr Gutfreund was replaced by Deryck Maughan, a low-key former Treasury official. Mr Maughan had his own problems. In 1994, rumours were rife that he was on his way out amid $660 million losses arising from poor risk management and a difficult bond market.

Mr Maughan sought to curb Salomon's earnings volatility by building up the investment banking business.

Salomon's results still swing wildly, but client businesses have started to smooth out the numbers.

For some investment bankers, yesterday marked the end of an era. "It's very sad, it's like a death knell for the age of Wall Street titans," said one investment banker. In truth that era was over some time ago.

Notebook

Banking merger a tragic inevitability



Edited by Alex Brummer

ABSORPTION of US investment banker Salomon into the Travelers/Smith Barney empire is inevitable — and tragic.

Inevitable because mid-sized investment banks find it increasingly difficult to stand alone in integrated financial markets where clients demand a one-stop shop able to provide distribution as well as products.

Tragic because Salomon is an emblematic Wall Street firm with a distinguished and colourful history which will be diminished by being part of a more managerial group.

The new Salomon Smith Barney alliance is not just another nondescript US banking merger.

It catapults Salomon from being a second line, rather specialist house, into the first rank of global investment banking, and underlines again how formidable the American challenge in investment banking has become. With the possible exception of SBC Warburg (which recently added Dillon Read to its stable) this is a marketplace where Europeans are still at the starting gate.

The effort of NatWest Markets to span the Atlantic is more or less in tatters. Deutsche Morgan Grenfell does have the financial muscle but has just received a setback at the hands of US regulators.

While rationalisation and concentration of European commercial and investment banking has begun, ahead of the creation of the euro currency area, the slowness of North Rhine-Westphalia capitalism puts it at a disadvantage in the battle for global market share compared with the speed at which North Atlantic business works.

By all accounts the match-up betweeen Salomon and Smith Barney looks a good one. Although $9 billion may seem a high price for a house which in 1991 almost fell into the sea after its involvement in a bond-rigging scandal, it is reasonable in terms of what investment banking assets have been fetching at two times book value.

That will be enough to reward Salomon's biggest investor, Warren Buffett, with a handsome return on his 18 per cent holding in Salomon. Once again, Mr Buffett's confidence that an excellent brand name, whether it be in investment banking or soft drinks, always has value appears to be borne out. And given Mr Buffett's long interest in insurance, Salomon as part of Travelers could be much more of a core holding.

The logic of this deal is plain. Salomon will provide the international presence and reputation, the expertise in fixed income sales, underwriting and arbitrage and some high quality research services. Although Henry Kaufman, the veteran Salomon guru, has long departed — the firm, because of its strong bond trading activities, remains a powerhouse in economic and monetary research.

To these rather highbrow investment banking businesses are added the more pedestrian activities of Smith Barney. It is primarily a US domestic franchise, with strong retail distribution, equity sales and trading and a middle-market investment bank.

In many ways this deal parallels that between Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, where the top ranking investment bank linked itself with a distribution arm through which it could directly sell its products.

With the present strong appetite for equity in the US, these extensive distribution arms make life increasingly difficult for European rivals.

As in the case of the Morgan Stanley merger, the new collaboration will lead to a doubling up at the top with co-chairmen, Jamie Dimon, aged 41, and British-born Deryck Maughan at Salomon.

In that the two sides of these business are rather different, this doubling up makes some sense.

Nevertheless, the idea of two virile co-chairmen fighting it out for influence in the Travelers boardroom where all-powerful Sanford Weill holds the ring should make for an exciting, if not reassuring spectacle.

Quieter option

HARD on the heels of last week's link-up between the French, German and Swiss futures exchanges comes another potential blow for Liffe, the London financial futures market.

It seems that the International Petroleum Exchange, which like Liffe uses an "open outcry" trading system, is considering scrapping it in favour of the electronic system favoured by European futures bourses.

Although Liffe has made plain its willingness to adopt electronic trading in certain cases, and has done so successfully, it is dominated by open outcry. But although it would be a blow if the IPE were to abandon open outcry at such a sensitive time, perhaps more worrying for Liffe are the reasons it has given.

Apart from having to splash out perhaps as much as £5 million on new premises if open outcry were to be maintained, the IPE says the growth in volumes for the two main contracts traded in this way — Brent and Gas Oil — has slowed dramatically over the past year, while trade in the Natural Gas contract, which is traded electronically, has increased.

Even with this latest twist, anyone writing off Liffe does so at their peril — although it may have to consider radical changes.

This could be especially urgent as the IPE is also considering demutualising, releasing windfalls for its members and putting it on a more entrepreneurial footing.

National Grid to float pylon partner Energis

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

NATIONAL Grid yesterday promised to float part of its Energis telecoms business to bolster the value of the electricity transmission company and pay off £230 million of debts.

Between 25 and 30 per cent of Energis is expected to be sold in December. National Grid is promising to keep a majority shareholding in the business, valued by the City at between £800 million and £1 billion.

David Jones, National Grid chief executive, said the move would benefit shareholders. "By floating Energis we shall place a value on our investment. National Grid will retain a majority interest, so as to continue to benefit directly from Energis's future development."

Some believe the sale will clear the way for National Grid to mount a share buy-back and pursue expansion plans in Australia where it has been hovering over buying into the Victoria transmission company, Powernet.

The Energis sale has been rumoured for some months, inflating National Grid's share price but leading some analysts to doubt whether the price would be further lifted by the float — not least because recent telecoms flotations have gone at a considerable discount. Yesterday Grid shares fell back 3.5p to 283p.

Energis, whose 3,000 miles of hi-tech fibre optic cables are carried on electricity pylons, is recovering from a shaky start and making headway into the £7 billion business telecoms market where it has established a 1.5 per cent share.

The group was founded in 1993 and has 16,000 customers including high profile retail and media businesses, including the BBC and Mirror Group. National Grid has invested £575 million in Energis, including £337 million building the network.

Revenues more than doubled last year to £97 million and are expected to grow by the same amount this year. But the company is not expected to make profits until the turn of the century.

Nevertheless the chief executive, Mike Grabiner, insisted timing of the float was propitious. He pointed out that it was focusing exclusively on the business market where revenues from voice telecoms are growing at 3 per cent a year and where growth in broadcast and Internet services are forecast to grow 20 per cent a year.

Documents to be published ahead of the flotation, which is to be managed by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, will reveal the precise stake to be sold and the financial relationship between National Grid and its telecom subsidiary — including leasing of space on pylons and maintenance.

Analysts said the company had been turned round in the 18 months since Mr Grabiner took the helm but the biggest threat to Energis was its inability to break into local markets.

Fears of slower growth brush glitter off Gucci

From John Glover in Milan

FOR most companies a year-on-year sales increase of more than a fifth and net income growth of almost a third might sound like a recipe for winning the hearts of analysts and investors.

Not, though, for Gucci, the Italian luxury goods and fashion group, whose shares plunged more than 17 per cent in Amsterdam yesterday after reporting such figures for the first half of this year. In New York, its shares closed on Tuesday at $58 (£36) but opened yesterday at $48.

Behind the dive were fears that the company's stratospheric rate of growth, which has seen sales more than doubled since it was first listed in 1995, is slowing down. Earlier this year, similar worries were prompted by an analyst's prediction that Japan's economic difficulties might cause Japanese consumers to think twice before spending, say, $300 on a G-string with a 'G'-shaped clasp on it.



"It is widely known that the macroeconomic climate in certain of our most important markets has recently been difficult," Domenico De Sole, president and chief executive, said yesterday. "Based on business trends since the end of the first half, we would expect this operating environment to restrict our growth in the second half of the fiscal year."

He added that it would, in any case, have been especially difficult for the company to maintain the rate of growth it rang up in the first half of 1996, when sales rose 67 per cent. However, the company also said that its growth rate had declined significantly in the second quarter of this year.

"The sell-off has been way overdone in my view," said Milan analyst Paul Gordon. He pointed out that much of the blame for the poorer-than-expected results stemmed from translating the weak yen into strong dollars and from the fall-off in Japanese foreign travel.

The Gucci sell-off dragged down the share prices of other luxury goods firms. Bulgari, a posh jewellery firm, fell by more than 6 per cent in Milan.

New Deal on unemployment 'targets wrong age group'

Charlotte Denny

JOBLESS adults may need more help to find work than the under-25s who are the main target of the Government's "New Deal" for the unemployed, according to an independent think tank.

Ninety per cent of the £3.5 billion New Deal budget will be spent on people aged 18-24 who have been out of work for more than six months, including providing £60-a-week subsidies to employers who offer jobs.

The Employment Policy Institute will tell a parliamentary select committee today that because unemployment among young adults has been falling rapidly over the last year, a large group of people aged 18-24 going into New Deal subsidised jobs could have found work without the extra support.

According to the institute, the £75-a-week subsidies proposed for adults who have been unemployed for longer than two years may be more effective at creating jobs.

"Within the New Deal the tax rebate for employers recruiting very long term unemployed people aged over 25 appears better targeted ... than that for younger jobless people," writes EPI director John Philpott, in a submission to the committee.

The EPI also casts doubts on government esimates of the number of private sector employers who will come forward to offer subsidied work. "A national job subsidy scheme might secure 35,000 places annually," it says.

The original aim for the New Deal was for 40 per cent of the 250,000 "clients" to go into subsidised private sector work.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.18	France 9.40	Italy 2,758	Singapore 2.39
Austria 19.75	Germany 2.8050	Malta 0.6190	South Africa 7.37
Belgium 57.88	Greece 445.50	Netherlands 3.1480	Spain 235.25
Canada 2.19	Hong Kong 12.15	New Zealand 2.46	Sweden 12.01
Cyprus 0.83	India 58.54	Norway 11.36	Switzerland 2.30
Denmark 10.75	Ireland 1.0720	Portugal 285.00	Turkey 268,580
Finland 8.44	Israel 5.85	Saudi Arabia 5.96	USA 1.5800

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

Sales warning wipes £120m off Greenalls

Ian King

GREENALLS, Britain's fourth biggest pubs company, saw nearly £120 million wiped from its market value yesterday after warning of poor sales and tougher competition in its pubs in the North-west.

On the warning, shares of Greenalls, whose 2,000-strong pubs estate includes such brand names as Miller's Kitchen and Henry's, crashed 37¼p to 414p — their lowest level for more than two years.

Greenalls said that, although it had enjoyed an upturn in trading in August, the performance of its managed pubs estate had been "dull" since the start of the second half of the financial year.

At the same time, it said that the performance would look especially poor because it would be compared with the second half of the last trading year, when it had been boosted by Euro '96.

Issuing the warning, the chairman, Lord Daresbury, said the problem stemmed partly from the fact that, while other pub operators had been spending heavily on their branded operations, Greenalls had been tied up with integrating the Boddingtons pub estate it bought two years ago for £518 million.

But Lord Daresbury — better known in some circles as the former National Hunt jockey Peter Greenall — insisted the problem was now under control.

He said that, following the transfer of some 245 pubs to its franchised and tenanted operation, Greenalls would now be transferring control of another 79 managed pubs to the same set-up, maximising their potential profitability.

Lord Daresbury added that "the wall of capital expenditure" spent by rivals had escalated so dramatically that it was now estimated at £1.5 billion a year. Greenalls had put its own site acquisition programme on hold after the Boddingtons purchase. He added: "We are confident that management action has now got the situation in hand."

Elsewhere, fast-growing pub operator Regent Inns, whose estate includes the Australian-style Walkabout Inn chain, said it planned to open 30 new outlets over the next year.

It said at least three of the new pubs would be Jongleurs comedy clubs, based on the successful theme it has already developed in three London bars, while it was also planning to open a number of non-branded free houses.

Although full year pre-tax profits rose by 57 per cent to £12.6 million, Regent shares eased 12½p to 324p.



Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlem examines computer hard disks yesterday as she opens the new Seagate factory at Limavady, Co Londonderry, which is backed by the Industrial Development Board PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN HARRISON

New roads to be 'last resort'

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

THE road lobby will be warned today that expenditure is to be cut to the bone as the Government highlights its green credentials.

Gwyn Strang, the Transport Minister, will tell the British Roads Federation that the Government sees "new roads as a last, rather than first resort".

He has decided to use a visit to the BRF's annual meeting at Warwick to issue a warning about the likely result of the Government's roads review which is due for completion next year.

Dr Strang was making the finishing touches to his speech last night, but it is likely to confirm that the roads programme will be even slimmer than the one pursued by the Conservatives. "We will not be content simply to continue down the road pursued by the Major administration," he is to say.

The speech will be seen as a bid by Dr Strang to rescue his position in the Cabinet. He was subjected to considerable criticism in the summer for appearing to support Department of Transport officials in an attempt to shortcut a review of 12 road projects, including an expansion of the M25 near Heathrow airport, even though he opposed the Salisbury bypass.

Dr Strang said today's initiative as part of a "drive your cars less" campaign.

Road builders will be dismayed at the ferocity of the minister's attack. They will gain little comfort from a promise that road development could be proved where it is vital to the economy.

The Government has already scrapped the widening of the A40 into London. If Dr Strang means what he says, it looks likely that six projects from the previous government's design, build, finance and operate programme will be scrapped. Only the A13 Thameside gateway road and a widening of the M2 look safe, but the Government will face intense pressure from the roads lobby to agree the widening of the M25.

Granada spends £60m to win four stars for Posthouse chain

Ian King

GRANADA, the hotels, TV and motorway services combine, yesterday announced a £60 million investment in Posthouse, part of the Forte hotel chain it snapped up for £3.9 billion last year.

Announcing its first major spending on Posthouse since it bought the business, Granada said the revamp would offer customers more "home comforts", including bigger beds, better showers and improved fitness centres.

The news — which sent Granada shares up 17p to 863½p — comes at a time when Britain's hotels are booming, helped by the continued strength of the economy, along with the growth of London and other cities as tourist magnets.

However, after commissioning a survey from pollster NOP, Granada found that many of its customers felt that the 1980s-style drive to convert hotels into business venues had gone too far.

In particular, it found guests keen for duvets instead of sheets and blankets, while there was also extensive demand for larger pillows, satellite television and power showers.

Stephen Foster, managing director of Forte UK, said that the investment — the biggest single sum ever spent on the chain — was aimed at upgrading Posthouse's 83 hotels into four-star operations.

Meanwhile, Ryan Hotels, the Dublin-based hotel operator quoted in London, said that booming hotel conditions had helped it lift first half pre-tax profits by 20 per cent to IR£1.92 million. The shares gained 2p to 52½p.

Air firms told merge or die

Martin Walker in Brussels

EUROPEAN aerospace industries face "a lingering death", unless they swiftly restructure and concentrate their 40 separate firms to meet the challenge of the remaining Big Three US groups, the European Commission warned yesterday.

Europe should be prepared to ease its usually tight competition rules in order to allow European aerospace to make trans-national mergers that would stand a chance against the US leaders, the report said, warning firms they should stand on their own feet without looking to Brussels for aid.

National governments, it added, should be prepared to balance a narrow view of national sovereignty with the overriding objective of industrial competitiveness in an industry employing 370,000.

"We do not need to bring exaggerated political pressure on to the industry. They know the scale of the problem that confronts them. There are no national solutions any more", industrial affairs Commissioner Martin Bangemann said yesterday.

The report "European Aerospace Industry: meeting the global challenge", said the US had 59 per cent of the global market, against Europe's 29 per cent, even before the recent hefty restructuring of the US industry.

The 20 significant US aerospace companies of 1980 were now reduced to just three: Boeing-McDonnell Douglas; Lockheed-Martin-Northrop-Grumman and Raytheon. The scale of the US restructuring had been so sweeping that all of Europe's 40 aerospace companies combined would still be dwarfed by Boeing-McDonnell Douglas.

"This American concentration must be for us the alarm bell. Against three American firms for the whole industry, Europe has six manufacturers of civil aircraft, six manufacturers of military aircraft and three of helicopters, and 12 rocket builders and six defence electronics firms and five involved in satellites", Commissioner Bangemann said.

"Our European industry must group itself to the size needed to carry the commercial risks of development. The Americans have three to four times the research and development budget that we do, 10 times the amount in some sectors, and the opportunity of applying subsidised military research to commercial aviation. And we should also note the concerted efforts of the American government in promoting product sales".

Although British Aerospace and Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace firms have been pressing for Euro-mergers, the French government has fought hard to retain a national aviation industry, except in the special case of the Airbus consortium which the Commission saw as "a good example of a European solution".

The Commission is now hoping that its report will persuade the Council of Ministers to nudge Paris into a more European approach to military aircraft and missiles.

"The reality that no member state can any longer retain complete autonomy in its aerospace capability has to be acknowledged through the acceptance of true interdependence within Europe in the interest of the European aerospace industry as a whole", the report says.

The Commission also proposes that the EU give research support and restructuring finance to the industry, and establish a European defence procurement system to create an internal defence market.

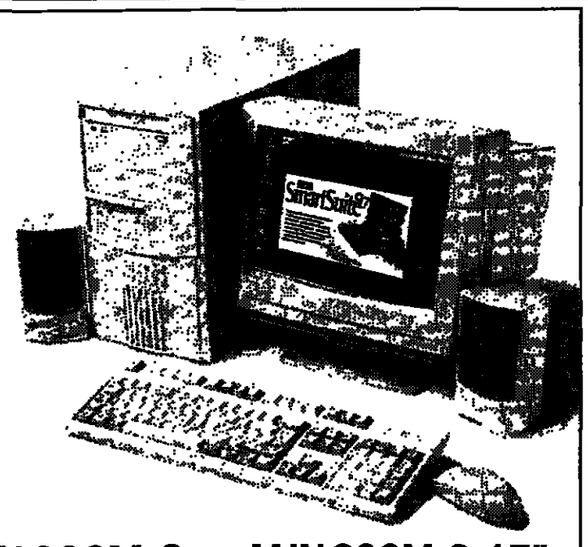
● Northwest Airlines confirmed a firm order for 50 Airbus A319 jets, with the option of taking a further 100 — a potential deal worth $6 billion.

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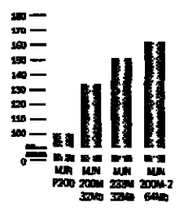
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Rugby Union

Monthly deal for England players

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND'S international players will each be offered a month-on-month rolling contract plus match appearance fees this season instead of the substantial basic salary of around £35,000 they have received over the past two years.

The Rugby Football Union will broadly follow the reward system used in football and cricket, in which a player's place in the national squad is reviewed at regular intervals and his contract terminated should he lose form or pick up a serious injury.

Yesterday Clive Woodward, the England coach, insisted there would be rigorous weekly assessments of players and he would not hesitate to drop any member of the elite squad who failed to meet certain stringent standards.

Every player would have to show sufficient form to justify his continued inclusion in the 23-man squad which Woodward took charge of for his first training session at Bisham Abbey yesterday.

Each squad member will sign a one-month contract which will be renewed for succeeding months only if he is deemed to be a genuine contender for an England place in the next scheduled match. Every match appearance will be worth a £3,000 basic fee plus a £500 win bonus: the monthly contract will be worth £3,000 irrespective of whether a player is chosen for the match squad.

The new system, which has been approved by Woodward's fellow selectors and the RFU director of rugby Don Rutherford, is designed to ensure that the England squad becomes a ruthless meritocracy in which past reputations count for nothing. It means, for example, that Phil de Glanville, whom Woodward said yesterday was still the England captain, would automatically lose the captaincy if he loses his England place.

"We have started with the 23 players we felt we would choose if had to play an international match on Saturday," said Woodward. "We will add to that number if we think someone deserves a place or potentially delete anyone who isn't up to it or picks up a long-term injury. We'll try to make selection as scientific as we can — we'll use a lot of watchers at club games and a lot of videos to get as much information as possible for us to evaluate."

De Glanville, who was appointed captain 11 months ago when Jack Rowell was coach, said he was "very happy" with his form for Bath this season, particularly in the Heineken European Cup. He said: "If the captaincy does need to be shared around there are four or five players in the squad who could cope with the job. That would spread the load and spread the pressure as well."

Woodward, together with his assistant John Mitchell and Richard Hill, has already mapped out the technical content of every squad session in the build-up to the game against Australia at Twickenham on November 15. Yesterday he enlisted the help of the former All Blacks' fitness coach Jim Blair who could be given a permanent role in England's preparations for their 11 matches this season.

● The organisers of the Heineken Cup, who on Monday fined Brive and Pontypridd £30,000 for on-pitch fighting, are investigating another violent match involving Pau and Llanelli. The French side's team manager Henri Nieto has been called to give evidence today to cup officials concerning fighting during the match on September 13.



Full stretch . . . Sale's Tom Beim limbers up while the England coach enjoys his first training session with the squad PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Cricket

Why Max offers minimum benefits to game's future

David Hopps on an experiment many will find unappealing

NOT everybody has cottoned on to Cricket Max and, as this bastardised form of the one-day game originated in New Zealand, that is not altogether surprising. "Max" is intended to convey the impression of maximum excitement, but not only to traditionalists does it carry connotations of the movie Mad Max, with its vision of a dark and disturbing future.

For the England and Wales Cricket Board, though, Mad Max has a place in its debate about how best to reverse the collapse of cricket in state schools. It is with the board's blessing that Glamorgan's captain Matthew Maynard will lead an England representative side in a three-day tournament in New Zealand from October 31 to November 2.

The game, devised by the former New Zealand captain Martin Crowe, will be covered live on NZ Sky TV, who will bear the costs. In fairness, it probably beats extended coverage of the Bay of Islands junior sea-fishing monthly medal.

England's first sight of Cricket Max occurred in New Zealand last winter, when the media was more entranced by the supposedly damning fact that Michael Atherton, a captain under siege, was "caught by a woman", the New Zealand international Emily Drumm. A game in which double runs are awarded for hitting the ball into an end-zone is hardly Atherton's cup of tea anyway.

The ECB's director of cricket operations John Carr suggested yesterday that he was looking forward to seeing an "innovative and exciting" format in operation, although he would be wise not to cancel any pressing engagements.

"It will give us a better idea of whether the game could work in this country," Carr said. "We need to study games which could appeal to young people and which could form the basis of a development game for secondary schools."

It would be ill judged if the game's authorities, having rejected a golden opportunity for change at first-class level, inflicted such nonsense as Cricket Max on those too young to resist.

● Peter Moores, Sussex's captain last season, yesterday stepped down but had his playing contract extended by 12 months to take him through until 1999. Sussex also confirmed that Dave Gilbert, Surrey's coach for the past two seasons, will join as deputy chief executive and director of coaching.

Racing

Reid gets call for Predappio

Chris Hawkins

JOHN REID will ride 33-1 outsider Predappio in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe for the Godolphin stable whose hopes are primarily pinned on Swain, the mount of Frankie Dettori.

Predappio's main claim to fame is his defeat of Pilsudski in the Hardwicke Stakes at Royal Ascot, although he was unable to confirm that form in the King George when he finished seventh of eight behind Swain.

A subsequent third to Borgia and Luso at Baden-Baden suggests he is unlikely to add to Reid's solitary Arc victory on Tony Bin in 1988.

Peintre Celebre is the 3-1 Arc favourite with Hill's, followed by Pilsudski and Helissio bracketed together at 7-2.

Olivier Peslier, Peintre Celebre's jockey, comes over to ride at Goodwood this afternoon and looks likely to land a double on Media Star (3.00) and Decorated Hero (3.30).

Media Star, runner-up in the Ebor, should be good enough to give over a stone to Georgia Venture, a fast-finishing second to Sausalito Bay at Doncaster, but the race is no formality.

Decorated Hero went down by a neck to Almushtarak at Doncaster when Nwaamis was fifth. The latter reopposes on the same terms and seems held, although he had previously been off the course for 12 weeks.

At Goodwood yesterday Reid rode his 95th winner of the season on the Godolphin-trained Mutawwaj in the St Ivel Stakes when taking over from the suspended Dettori.

Mutawwaj started fractionally odds-on, but made hard work of getting the better of Achilles who rallied well after making the running.

The result can be construed as something of a compliment to City Honours, a likely runner in Saturday's Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot, who had beaten Mutawwaj by half a length at Doncaster.

City Honours came from an impossible position in the Doncaster race and is rated the best of Peter Chapple-Hyam's two-year-olds. His running against Kilimanjaro, currently 10-1 favourite for the Derby, in the Royal Lodge will be highly informative.

A two-year-old thought to be better than his public form is Imshishway, who had made no show in his two previous outings before winning yesterday's Scottish Equitable Stakes at 14-1.

The victory was no great surprise to connections of this Royal Academy colt who had been showing Brian Meehan, his trainer, plenty at home. Meehan may now send Imshishway to Newbury for the Horris Hill Stakes, a race in which he saddled the 1995 winner Tumbleweed Ridge and last year's runner-up Royal Amaretto.

There was a nasty incident two furlongs out in the 23-runner Frialator International Handicap when Pride of Hayling broke her off-fore leg and gave Stephen Drowne a horrible fall.

Fortunately Pride of Hayling was near the back of the field and Drowne escaped with nothing more than a severe shaking, although he missed riding the last-race winner, Mac Oates, for Peter Hedger and was stood down until Saturday by the course doctor.

Henry Cecil has announced the retirement of Bosra Sham who cannot be readied for the Dubai Champion Stakes because of a recurrence of the foot injury which has plagued her throughout her career.

Bosra Sham won the 1,000 Guineas and Champion Stakes last year and ran away with the Prince Of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot this season, prompting Cecil to say she was the best horse he had trained.

On her retirement he commented: "She was a pleasure and an honour to train. She has given us thrills and heartache beyond all measure and she will never be forgotten."

After partnering Dorans Pride to a six-lengths victory in the Guinness Kerry National at Listowel yesterday, Richard Dunwoody announced his intentions to make himself available for the ride in the Cheltenham Gold Cup next March.

Dorans Pride is 8-1 with Coral to step up on his gallant third to Mr Mulligan in this year's Gold Cup.

Trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — Perth: 2.15 Forever Grey, Colin McKeever to J H Johnson & Young Wolf, F Berry to D Eddy; 2.50 Lymax, J Cox to J H Johnson, 3.50 Strong Views, E Haddock to G Harker; 4.20 Jubran, J L Eyre to J P Dodds; 5.25 Amoebic, R Fisher to M Todhunter. Goodwood: 2.00 Classy Chief, J White to J Long & Via Del Quatro, W Banks to J Mullins; 2.30 Salty Jack, S Dow to V Soane; 4.00 Mutabari, D Morley to K Mahdi. Pontefract: 4.45 Mon Bruce, W Muir to M Dods.

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	COMMENTARY	RESULTS
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PONTEFRACT	772	782
PERTH	773	783
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Goodwood with form for Jackpot races

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.00	Durham	Red Raja
2.30	Refuse To Lose	Khalaeq (nap)
3.00	Media Star	Media Star (nb)
3.30	Decorated Hero	Red Camellia
4.00	Curzon Street	Curzon Street
4.35	Chief Whip	Chief Whip
5.05	King Darius (nap)	The Thruster

Straight six furlongs with adjoining loop providing right-hand turn in races of more than 7f.
Going: Straight course: Good; Round: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best 7f & 1m.
Long distance travellers: Uplifting (4.35) L Cottrell, Devon 134 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: Visored:
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

2.00 UCELLO II & UBU III TROPHY HANDICAP (NH JOCKEYS)
2m £3,664 (15 declared)

101 (10) 0030 Ajcombe (15) Lady Herries 4-11-10 — C Llewellyn 84
102 (9) 422152 Durham (16) G L Moore 6-11-10 — D Gallagher ★ 88
103 (15) 0-1630 Classy Chief (108) J Long 4-11-10 — Leesa Long 78
104 (2) 406620 Sandy Floss (17) J King 4-11-8 — B Powell 80
105 (5) 0114/ Father Sky (J196) O Sherwood 6-11-8 — J A McCarthy ★ —
106 (6) 080-02 Red Raja (J11) P Mitchell 4-11-3 — M Richards ●88
107 (13) -20040 Nordansk (30) M Madgwick 8-10-13 — M A Fitzgerald 85
108 (4) 000/ Via Del Quatro (J235) J Mullins 5-10-9 — V Slattery —
109 (14) 012240 Zamalek (8) (BF) R Flower 5-10-8 — C Maude 86
110 (11) 43050/ Wilkins (J40) R O'Sullivan 8-10-7 — A McCabe —
111 (8) -08523 Palamon (28) G Balding 3-10-4 — B Fenton 88
112 (3) 40/00- Chief's Song (J291) S Dow 7-10-1 — J R Kavanagh —
113 (7) 224165 Hillwick (16) J King 6-10-0 — T J Murphy 88
114 (12) 3004/4 Glaive (21) J Mullins 6-10-0 — S Curran 70
115 (1) 000800 Challenger (8) L Wells 4-10-0 — L Harvey —

Betting: 11-4 Red Raja, 4-1 Durham, 11-2 Chief's Song, 7-1 Ajcombe, 8-1 Zamalek, Hillwick, 10-1 Father Sky, Palamon.

FORM GUIDE – Durham: Hung right closing stages, not quicken, 13l 2nd of 14 behind Lookout, with Ajcombe (gave 28lb) another 7l away 8th, at Kempton 1m 6f hcap, Gd. Sandy Floss: Well btn latest; previously 10l 2nd of 6 bhd Admiral's Secret at Windsor 1m3f hcp, Fm. Father Sky: Fairly useful chaser nowadays, last ran Flat April '95 when 6l 4th of 10 bhd Bold Gait at Newbury 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Red Raja: Clear 2f out until headed final furlong, 2l 2nd of 16 bhd Duncombe Hall at Folkestone 2m hcap, Gd; subsequently runner-up in 2m4f hdl in Italy. Nordansk: Weakened over 1f out, 10l 8th of 12 bhd Ridolyne at Kempton 1m4f hcap, Gd. Wilkins: Hurdles winner last month; last ran Flat when last of 15 bhd Admiral's Well at Ascot 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Palamon: Ridden and headway over 2f out, ran on one pace, 3l 3rd of 15 bhd Bold Buster at Lingfield 1m3f hcap, Gd-Sft. Chief's Song: Smart hurdler, no worthwhile Flat form for long time. Hillwick: Made most until headed over 2f out, one pace, 5l 5th of 17 bhd Stoned Imaculate at Nottingham 2m hcap, Gd-Fm.

2.30 SCATS HANDICAP 3YO
7f £3,980 (11 declared)

201 (9) 650526 Telemania (27) W Haggas 9-7 — K Fallon 88
202 (1) 39133- Salty Jack (370) V Soane 9-6 — C Rutter 85
203 (11) 322136 Khalaeq (14) (D) W Hern 9-6 — R Hills ★ ●90
204 (5) 311080 Sword Arm (9) R Charlton 9-5 — T Sprake ★ 89
205 (8) 1-4202 Refuse To Lose (8) J Eustace 9-1 — R Cochrane 88
206 (7) 124500 Gee Bee Dream (6) (D) A Jarvis 9-1 — S Drowne 82
207 (10) 5-0000 Braveheart (28) M Channon 8-8 — S Sanders —
208 (6) 0-4403 Irtifa (8) P Walwyn 8-6 — W Ryan ★ 86
209 (3) 320550 Mimah (16) R Akehurst 8-3 — M Roberts 85
210 (4) 0-0054 Dandy Regent (131) C Cyzer 8-3 — R Ffrench (3) 86
211 (2) 410020 Midnight Shift (14) R Guest 8-1 — Martin Dwyer 88

Betting: 3-1 Khalaeq, 5-1 Refuse To Lose, Irtifa, 7-1 Telemania, Midnight Shift, 12-1 Sword Arm, Gee Bee Dream, Dandy Regent.

FORM GUIDE – Telemania: Headway 2f out, weakened final furlong, 30l 8th of 15 behind Shawer at Sandown 1m hcap, Gd-Sft. Khalaeq: Held up stands' side, headway 3f out, kept on under pressure, 1l 6th of 21 bhd Sallo at Doncaster 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. Sword Arm: Well btn since 3l 3rd to Compliance at Salisbury 1m hcp, Gd. Refuse To Lose: Led 4f, every chance inside final furlong, not quicken, 1l 2nd of 13 bhd Magnus at Sandown 7f, Gd. Irtifa: Led over 6f out, hard ridden 1f out, headed inside final furlong, unable to quicken, 2l 3rd of 9 bhd Irish Light at Sandown 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Mimah: Prominent 5f, 11l 10th of 18 bhd Sdey Ara at Lingfield 7f hcap, Gd. Dandy Regent: Ridden 2f out, outpaced towards finish, 5l 4th of 15 bhd Gee Bee Dream (gave 5lb) at Lingfield 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. Midnight Shift: Led far side, headed and outpaced inside final furlong, 5l 7th of 20 bhd Samara Song at Leicester 7f hcap, Gd-Fm.

3.00 N.F.U. RATED STAKES HANDICAP
2m £7,299 (4 declared)

301 (3) 011112 Media Star (36) (C) (D) (BF) J Gosden 4-9-8 O Peslier ★ ●90
302 (4) -30055 Male-Ana-Mou (12) (C) D Elsworth 4-8-11 Dane O'Neill 85
303 (2) 051112 Lady of The Lake (12) (D) (BF) J Dunlop 3-8-8 G Carter 88
304 (1) 431352 Georgia Venture (15) S Woods 3-8-3 — R Ffrench (3) 88

Betting: 5-4 Media Star, 9-4 Lady Of The Lake, 4-1 Male-Ana-Mou, 6-1 Georgia Venture.

FORM GUIDE – Media Star: Vastly improved stayer since fitted with visor, game effort in Ebor, led over 1f out until final furlong, kept on well, neck 2nd of 21 behind Far Ahead at York 1m6f hcap, Gd. Lady Of The Lake: Held up, chased winner over 1f out, ran on well inside final furlong, head 2nd of 8 behind High Intrigue, with Male-Ana-Mou (now 6lb better) further 4l away 5th, at Goodwood 2m hcap, Gd. Georgia Venture: Effort 2f out, every chance inside last, ran on, head 2nd of 17 bhd Sausalito Bay at Doncaster 1m2f hcap, Gd-Fm.

3.30 CHARLTON HUNT SUPREME STAKES
7f £22,638 (6 declared)

401 (6) 611612 Decorated Hero (14) (D) (BF) J Gosden 5-9-2 O Peslier 89
402 (4) 003240 Restructure (12) (BF) Mrs J Cecil 5-9-2 — M Roberts 90
403 (5) 6-1145 Nwaamis (14) J Dunlop 5-8-12 — R Hills 87
404 (3) 0-2210 Blueygreen (56) (D) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-5 — Dane O'Neill 78
405 (2) -22256 Oh Nellie (56) (D) (BF) N Callaghan 3-8-5 — W Ryan 88
406 (1) 1114-3 Red Camellia (137) (CD) Sir M Prescott 3-8-6 — S Sanders ●90

Betting: 9-4 Decorated Hero, 11-4 Red Camellia, 7-2 Oh Nellie, 9-2 Nwaamis, 8-1 Restructure, 20-1 Blueygreen.

FORM GUIDE – Decorated Hero: Held up and plenty to do, challenged inside last, no extra, neck 2nd of 8 behind Almushtarak, with Nwaamis (rec 4lb), quickened clear over 3f out until headed 1f out, another 3l back in 5th, at Doncaster 1m, Gd-Fm. Restructure: Below par effort when one-paced 7th of 11, 5l bhd Russian Music at Doncaster 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Oh Nellie: Led over 5f, weakened final furlong, 6l 6th of 8 bhd Dazzle, with Blueygreen (levels) another 10l back last, at Goodwood 7f, Gd-Fm. Red Camellia: Smart 2-y-o; off the track since May when 1l 3rd of 7, tried to make all, behind Always Loyal in French 1,000 Guineas at Longchamp 1m, Gd-Sft.

4.00 EQUITY FINANCIAL COLLECTIONS MAIDEN STAKES 3YO
1m 2f £3,785 (10 declared)

501 (1) 30 Bel Canto (8) J Gosden 9-0 — O Peslier 88
502 (4) 6-03 Dick Turpin (12) (BF) Lord Huntingdon 9-0 — W Ryan 88
503 (7) 530-30 Mutabari (152) K Mahdi 9-0 — R Cochrane 88
504 (10) 04 Quiet Venture (16) E Dunlop 9-0 — K Fallon 88
505 (3) 5205-2 Tough Act (12) Mrs A Perrett 9-0 — A Clark 88
506 (8) 80500 Balleur Lady (31) J Toller 8-9 — M Roberts 75
507 (6) 200423 Curzon Street (22) (BF) D Elsworth 8-9 — J Reid ●89
508 (5) 040030 Limelight (17) J Toller 8-9 — S Sanders ★ 78
509 (9) 05 Panorama (36) L Cumani 8-9 — R Ffrench (3) 82
510 (2) 00 Pradesh (8) J Gosden 8-9 — A Garth 86

Betting: 3-1 Tough Act, 4-1 Curzon Street, 5-1 Panorama, 6-1 Dick Turpin, 7-1 Bel Canto, Quiet Venture, 8-1 Pradesh.

FORM GUIDE – Bel Canto: Eased when beaten inside final furlong, 11l 7th of 11 behind Flagship, with stable-mate Pradesh (rec 5lb) 17l away 8th, at Sandown 1m2f mdn, Gd. Mutabari: Better effort in April when 5l 3rd of 8 to Haspil Dancer at Ripon 1m4f hcp, Gd-Fm. Quiet Venture: Led until inside final furlong, 6l 4th of 19 bhd Sacho at Leicester 1m2f mdn, Gd-Fm. Tough Act: Led well over 1f out until inside final furlong, not run on, nk 2nd of 10 bhd Silvery, with Dick Turpin (levels), promising 3rd, 2l back, at Goodwood 1m2f mdn, Gd. Curzon Street: Hard ridden and headway 1f out, one pace, 7l 3rd of 12 bhd Mono Lady at Brighton 1m4f hcap, Gd-Fm. Panorama: Chased leaders, no headway final 4f, 14l 5th of 9 bhd Grand Splendour at Yarmouth 1m2f mdn, Gd-Fm.

4.35 E.B.F. MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
6f £4,199 (10 declared)

601 (7) 00 Arctic Star (7) M Channon 9-0 — S Sanders 78
602 (3) 044 Chief Whip (13) L Cumani 9-0 — R Ffrench (3) ●90
603 (5) 00 Mall Shot (16) S Dow 9-0 — P Doe (7) —
604 (8) My Tyson K Mahdi 9-0 — Martin Dwyer —
605 (9) 55 Orsino (13) S Dow 9-0 — W Ryan 88
606 (6) 00 Thomas O'Malley (13) R O'Sullivan 9-0 — A Procter —
607 (1) 63 Torrent (27) (BF) P Cole 9-0 — C Rutter 85
608 (2) 6 Twoforten (36) M Madgwick 9-0 — N Varley —
609 (10) 6 Young Josh (10) J Gosden 9-0 — O Peslier 88
610 (4) 0 Uplifting (58) L Cottrell 8-9 — M Roberts —

Betting: 5-2 Young Josh, 3-1 Chief Whip, 7-2 Orsino, Torrent, 16-1 My Tyson, 20-1 Twoforten, 25-1 Arctic Star, Mall Shot.

FORM GUIDE – Arctic Star: Effort halfway, no danger, 17l 8th of 14 behind Arctic Air at Ayr 7f mdn, Gd-Sft. Chief Whip: One pace final furlong, 6l 4th of 12 bhd Iceband, with Orsino (levels) 3l back 5th & Thomas O'Malley (levels) 11th, at Goodwood 6f mdn, Gd. Torrent: Pulled hard, tracked leaders, effort over 2f out, not quicken, 11l 3rd of 8 bhd Gurkha at York 6f mdn, Sft. Young Josh: Backward, led far side runners 2f out, soon headed, weakened final furlong, 7l 6th of 17 bhd Delarena at Nottingham 6f mdn, Gd-Fm.

5.05 ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO
1m £3,200 (11 declared)

1 (6) 4210 Rico Suave (17) Sir M Prescott 9-7 — S Sanders 86
2 (1) 3310 Elbidik (17) (BF) J Dunlop 9-5 — R Hills ★ 86
3 (9) 014364 King Darius (17) R Hannon 8-13 — Dane O'Neill 89
4 (8) 640000 Ballet Rambert (8) M Heaton-Ellis 8-10 — K Fallon 88
5 (2) 060 Brenzine (15) G Balding 8-8 — S Drowne 84
6 (5) 450300 Ringleader (23) P Cole 8-8 — C Rutter ★ 89
7 (3) 053 Polo Venture (17) S Woods 8-6 — J Reid 87
8 (10) 4303 Short Romance (16) J Hills 7-12 — M Henry (3) 88
9 (11) 006 Dawn Treader (17) R Hannon 7-11 — R Ffrench (3) 86
10 (4) 2245 Little Tumbler (13) S Woodman 7-10 — A Polli (5) 84
11 (7) 060 The Thruster (28) W Hern 7-10 — Martin Dwyer ★ ●90

Betting: 9-2 Elbidik, 5-1 Rico Suave, 6-1 Short Romance, 7-1 King Darius, 8-1 Ringleader, Little Tumbler, 10-1 Polo Venture, The Thruster.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Pat Eddery	45	228	19.7	-10.83	R Hannon	39	372	10.5	-93.68
T Quinn	45	287	15.7	-41.41	P Cole	29	139	20.9	+15.88
L Dettori	39	209	18.7	-19.48	J Gosden	26	140	18.6	+25.87
J Reid	39	270	14.4	-29.08	J Dunlop	21	201	10.4	-107.94
R Cochrane	21	155	13.5	+18.66	R Akehurst	15	118	12.7	-25.30
M Roberts	20	145	13.8	+1.16	L Cumani	14	98	14.3	-18.31
M Hills	19	143	13.3	-1.51	M Channon	13	112	11.6	-16.56

Results

GOODWOOD

2.00 (1m 1f): 1, SUNA, Candy Morris (33-1); **2, Constant Attention** (100-30); **3, Royal Ground** (5-2 Fav). 12 ran. ¾, shd. (M Channon) Tote: £85.50; £10.90, £1.30, £1.60. Dual F: £181.50. Trio: £162.40. CSF: £126.89. NR: Persian Venture.

2.30 (1m): 1, MUTAWWAJ, J Reid (10-11 Fav); **2, Achilles** (10-1); **3, Lear Spear** (16-1). 8 ran. ¾, 5½. (Saeed bin Suroor) Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.20, £2.20. Dual F: £5.00. CSF: £10.83.

3.00 (7f): 1, IMSHISHWAY, K Darley (14-1); **2, Titan** (8-1); **3, Madame Jones** (16-1). 11-8 Fav Central Committee. 9 ran. ¾, 1½. (B Meehan) Tote: £28.60; £4.40, £1.80, £2.50. Dual F: £60.10. CSF: £111.56.

3.30 (1m 2f): 1, DANISH RHAPSODY, Paul Eddery (8-1); **2, Proper Blue** (4-1); **3, Sandstone** (11-8 Fav). 5 ran. ¾, shd. (Lady Herries) Tote: £2.70; £1.80, £1.80. Dual F: £6.60. CSF: £13.53.

4.00 (5f): 1, BEAD VENTURE, T Sprake (9-1); **2, Flying Harold** (20-1); **3, Lucy In The Sky** (50-1); **4, Songsheet** (9-1). 7-1 Fav Friendly Brave. 29 ran ¾, nk, ¾, shd. (B Palling) Tote: £10.50; £2.60, £4.20, £10.50, £3.80. Dual F: £106.50. CSF: £173.90. Trio: Not won. Tricast: £7,711.50.

4.35 (1m): 1, HARLEQUIN WALK, J Quinn (8-1); **2, Dancing Lawyer** (10-1); **3, Cyhoberga Blue** (33-1); **4, Lord Oberon** (7-1). 11-4 Fav Mbulwa. 20 ran 1½, ¾, 2, nk. (R O'Sullivan) Tote: £7.80; £1.70, £2.10, £9.80. Dual F: £45.10. CSF: £81.88. Trio: £1,048.00. Tricast: £2,399.04. NR: Bapsford, Onaknight With You.

5.05 (1m 4f): 1, ZENITH, P Doe (25-1); **2, Seattle Swing** (10-1); **3, Prince Alex** (4-1). 3-1 Jt Favs Pennys From Heaven & Royal Castle. 9 ran ¾, nk. (S Dow) Tote: £21.40; £3.20, £2.90, £1.90. Dual F: £58.10. Trio: £203.90. CSF: £211.90. Tricast: £1,029.43.

5.35 (1m): 1, MAC OATES, A Daly (16-1); **2, Rawl** (14-1); **3, Mimosa** (10-1); **4, Ring The Chief** (4-1 Jt Fav). 4-1 Jt Fav Step On Degas. 22 ran 1¾, 1¾, nk, ¾. (P Hedger) Tote: £31.60; £4.80, £3.60, £4.40. Dual F: £171.30. Trio: Not won. CSF: £212.67. Tricast: £2,237.54.

QUADPOT: £487.30. **PLACEPOT:** £817.80. **JACKPOT:** Not won. Pool of £20,253.23 carried forward to Goodwood today.

CHESTER

2.20 (1m 5f 89yds): 1, SPY KNOLL, D Holland (3-1); **2, Spartan Heartbeat** (5-1); **3, Aboo Hom** (4-1). 13-8 Fav Midnight Watch. 8 ran. 1¾, 8. (M Stoute) Tote: £4.70; £1.10, £1.90, £1.60. Dual F: £9.80. CSF: £14.42.

2.50 (7f 2yds): 1, PURE NOBILITY, D Holland (14-1); **2, Freedom Quest** (7-4 Fav); **3, Rewardia** (16-1). 9 ran. 1¾, ¾. (B Hills) Tote: £20.60; £5.10, £1.70, £2.30. Dual F: £24.70. Trio: £141.50. CSF: £38.58.

3.20 (7f 2yds): 1, BURNT YATES, S Sanders (10-1); **2, Montano** (11-1); **3, Ischalong** (8-1). 4-1 Fav Positive Air. 14 ran. 2½, 2. (M W Easterby) Tote: £12.80; £3.00, £3.50, £2.50. Dual F: £49.70. Trio: £145.30. CSF: £95.23. Tricast: £850.95.

3.50 (1m 7f 195yds): 1, FORGIE, N Day (17-2); **2, Tarapole** (5-1); **3, Ellerby Park** (8-1). 9-2 Jt Favs Albosaam & Campaspe. 11 ran. 1¾, shd. (P Calver) Tote: £11.30; £3.20, £2.10, £2.20. Dual F: £44.60. Trio: £81.60. CSF: £46.65. Tricast: £324.76.

4.20 (7f 122yds): 1, MUTAMAM, R Hills (2-1); **2, Golden Dice** (6-4 Fav); **3, Confirmation** (4-1). 4 ran. 1¾, 3. (A Stewart) Tote: £3.20. Dual F: £2.60. CSF: £5.00.

4.55 (6f 18yds): 1, SWAN AT WHALLEY, R Cochrane (13-2); **2, Caution** (8-1); **3, Lady Sheriff** (8-1). 4-1 Fav That Man Again. 13 ran Hd, 1. (R Fahey) Tote: £7.20; £2.30, £2.20, £3.70. Dual F: £19.00. Trio: £80.20. CSF: £54.85. Tricast: £400.97.

QUADPOT: £149.70. **PLACEPOT:** £528.00.

PERTH

2.10 (3m 110yds): 1, TRILBY, A Dobbin (4-7 Fav); **2, Four From Home** (6-1); **3, Woodhouse Lane** (33-1). 5 ran. 2½, 14. (G Richards) Tote: £1.40; £1.30, £2.10. Dual F: £2.50. CSF: £3.90.

2.40 (2m 4f 110yds): 1, PENTLANDS FLYER, A Maguire (7-2); **2, Music Blitz** (16-1); **3, Monkey Wench** (11-1). 9-13 Fav Linlathen. 10 ran. 14, 4. (J Howard Johnson) Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £2.50, £2.00. Dual F: £87.30. Trio: £45.30. CSF: £47.18.

3.10 (2m 110yds): 1, EDEN DANCER, P Niven (2-5 Fav); **2, Xaipete** (13-2); **3, Eurotwist** (8-1). 5 ran. 1¾, 18. (Mrs M Reveley) Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.80. Dual F: £2.80. CSF: £3.39.

3.40 (3m 4f 110yds): 1, CHEATER, Mr C Bonner (5-1); **2, Millcroft** (7-2); **3, Vintage Taittinger** (5-4 Fav). 5 ran. 3, 19. (J Howard Johnson) Tote: £4.90; £1.80, £1.70. Dual F: £7.20. CSF: £17.41.

4.10 (3m): 1, JOHNS THE BOY, Richard Guest (9-4); **2, Wells Court** (8-1); **3, Rusty Blade** (2-1 Fav). 5 ran 2, ¾. (N Mason) Tote: £2.70; £1.80, £2.30. Dual F: £14.00. CSF: £15.45.

4.45 (2m 110yds): 1, TERDAD, P Niven (4-11 Fav); **2, Snowdoner** (4-1); **3, Sounds Devious** (40-1). 7 ran. 6, 2½. (Mrs M Reveley) Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.80. Dual F: £2.10. CSF: £1.84.

QUADPOT: £16.00. **PLACEPOT:** £46.40.

Pontefract runners and riders

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.40	Canonize	Canonize
3.10	Chocolate	Chocolate
3.40	Eshtiaal	The In-Laws
4.10	Close Up (nb)	Close Up
4.45	Contenneur	Just Dissident
5.15	Bobble Wings	Bobble Wings

Left-handed, undulating course of 2m with run-in of just over 2f. Premium on stamina.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Low numbers favoured.
Long distance travellers: Infatuation (3.40), Lady Herries, W Sussex, 240 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.10 Chocolate; 4.45 Bataleur. Visored: 3.10 No Shame.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J, Jumps.

2.40 E.B.F. POPPIN LANE MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
6f £4,169 (16 declared)

1 (8) 00 Antonio Joli (10) P Cole 9-0 — T Quinn
2 (12) 00 Aspirant Dancer (14) M Bell 9-0 — M Fenton
3 (5) Brave Maple J Eustace 9-0 — J Tate
4 (7) Captain Logan D Loder 9-0 — J Carroll
5 (4) 05 Goldmaster (8) W O'Gorman 9-0 — Emma O'Gorman
6 (15) Happy Wanderer P Haslam 9-0 — J Fortune
7 (14) 00000 Hey Up Misha (40) J Berry 9-0 — C Lowther (5)
8 (1) 430003 Leoboc (16) M Pulgiase 9-0 — J Weaver ★
9 (2) 6 My Last Love (165) M Johnston 9-0 — B Holland
10 (16) 423 Prompt Delivery (49) (BF) M Stoute 9-0 — K Darley
11 (11) 0005 Strictly Rhythm (15) Mrs S Bramall(IRE) 9-0 — G Parkin (3)
12 (9) 30 Canonize (36) (BF) J Hills 8-9 — M Hills
13 (6) 50 Emmedene (28) J Eyre 8-9 — T Williams
14 (10) 8 Bedhampe (51) J Glover 8-9 — N Day
15 (13) 05 Sorrider (18) J Eyre 8-9 — M Gallagher
16 (3) Total Tropix W Haggas 8-9 — F Lynch

Betting: 3-1 Prompt Delivery, 7-2 Captain Logan, 13-2 Leoboc, 7-1 Canonize, 8-1 Sorrider, 10-1 Antonio Joli, Aspirant Dancer, Goldmaster, Total Tropix.

3.10 FILLIES' NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO
1m £3,702 (11 declared)

1 (1) 5622 Chocolate (8) J Dunlop 9-7 — T Quinn ★
2 (2) 3553 Good Catch (8) P R Webber 9-5 — J Fortune
3 (3) 435 Eshtiaal (16) M Johnston 9-3 — D Holland
4 (11) 326263 Summer Deal (8) P Cole 9-3 — K Darley
5 (4) 434 Campari (20) M Jarvis 9-0 — J Weaver
6 (9) 054140 Miss Main Street (21) J J Quinn 8-3 — J Carroll
7 (5) 006500 No Shame (7) J G Smyth-Osbourne 8-2 — G Bardwell ★
8 (7) 5501 Moonlight Flit (8) (BF) and J FitzGerald 8-0 — J Quinn ★
9 (10) 40000 Brookhouse Lady (12) R Hollinshead 7-12 — N Carlisle
10 (8) 800 Ida Lupino (49) B Hills 7-10 — P Fessey (3)
11 (6) 00035 Dancing Em (58) T Easterby 7-10 — L Charnock

Betting: 7-2 Chocolate, 5-1 Summer Deal, 6-1 Eshtiaal, 7-1 Good Catch, 8-1 Campari, Moonlight Flit, Ida Lupino.

3.40 DALBY RATED STAKES HANDICAP
1m 2f £6,489 (10 declared)

1 (10) 413000 Premier Bay (12) (D) P Harris 3-9-7 — D Holland ★
2 (8) -23111 Eshtiaal (42) (D) J Dunlop 3-9-8 — K Darley ★
3 (7) 120640 Wasp Ranger (35) P Cole 3-9-5 — T Quinn
4 (5) 001421 Infatuation (12) (D) Lady Herries 4-9-1 — J Weaver
5 (2) 1R0403 Waltz (12) (D) P Calver 5-8-0 — J Fortune
6 (4) -20560 Lycility (21) (C) C Brittain 3-8-13 — M Gallagher
7 (6) 43-653 The In-Laws (12) Sir M Prescott 3-8-7 — Dean McKeown
8 (1) 413440 Pinchincha (13) (CD) D Morris 3-8-7 — N Day
9 (3) 111204 Jack The Lad (103) (D) J Hetherton 3-8-6 — M Tebbutt
10 (6) 100313 Devoski (41) (D) B Hills 3-8-2 — P Fessey (3)

Betting: 11-4 Infatuation, 7-2 Eshtiaal, 7-1 Waltz, Devoski, 8-1 Wasp Ranger, The In-Laws, 10-1 Pinchincha.

4.10 FRIER WOOD MAIDEN STAKES 2YO
1m £3,388 (13 declared)

1 (11) 54420 After The Rain (14) B Hills 9-0 — M Hills
2 (10) Asset Manager M Johnston 9-0 — D Holland
3 (6) 542 Close Up (16) J Dunlop 9-0 — K Darley
4 (13) 0 Common View (30) N Tinkler 9-0 — L Charnock
5 (8) 00 Dardanelle (93) J Eustace 9-0 — J Tate
6 (12) 03 Fly By Night (16) M Stoute 9-0 — T Quinn
7 (9) 0 Free Option (54) B Hanbury 9-0 — J Stack
8 (2) 6 Kosler (30) W Haggas 9-0 — F Lynch
9 (1) 000 Major Ballaby (8) Mrs S Bramall(IRE) 9-0 — G Parkin (3)
10 (4) 060 Silver Hope (16) R Hollinshead 9-0 — A Culhane
11 (7) Sladmore N Tinkler 9-0 — Kim Tinkler
12 (3) Southern-Be-George W G M Turner 9-0 — D Sweeney (3)
13 (5) 50 Walton Grey (7) P Evans 9-0 — J F Egan

Betting: 9-4 Fly By Night, 11-4 Close Up, 4-1 After The Rain, 11-2 Asset Manager, 8-1 Free Option, 12-1 Sladmore, 14-1 Kosler.

4.45 NEVISON HANDICAP
5f £3,821 (18 declared)

1 (6) 120000 Royal Dome (6) (CD) M Wane 5-10-0 — S Whitworth
2 (7) 041660 Corniche Quest (21) (CD) M Channon 4-9-9 — A Eddery (7)
3 (17) 022330 Bracongill Lad (7) (D) Miss S Hall 5-8-8 — A McGlone
4 (6) 000600 Just Dissident (6) (CD) R Whitaker 5-9-1 — Dean McKeown ★
5 (13) 004260 Captain Carat (7) (CD) D Nicholls 6-9-1 — Alex Greaves ★
6 (15) 543001 Mon Bruce (17) (D) M Dods 3-9-0 — J Carroll
7 (4) 05-000 Jucea (27) (D) J Spearing 8-8-13 — J Weaver
8 (3) 011000 Lillibella (16) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 4-8-13 — B Peers
9 (2) 310000 Tropical Beach (23) (D) J Berry 4-8-13 — T E Durcan (3) ★
10 (14) 002405 Panther (28) (C) P Evans 7-8-12 — J F Egan ★
11 (11) 001330 Mungo Park (71) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-12 — J Fortune
12 (1) 512252 Contenneur (7) T Easterby 4-8-11 — L Charnock ★
13 (10) 020163 Bashful Brave (17) (D) B Baugh 6-8-11 — P Roberts (3)
14 (8) 0-6000 Bataleur (23) G Woodward 4-8-11 — D Holland ★
15 (5) 003536 Night Express (17) B Hanbury 3-8-11 — J Stack
16 (12) 000001 General Sir Peter (14) (D) N Callaghan 5-8-9 — Amanda Sanders
17 (16) 030500 Nell's Bonanza (38) (D) M Dods 8-8-7 — A Culhane
18 (18) 056000 Nick Glow (5) (CD) (BF) N Bycroft 6-8-7 — K Darley

Betting: 6-1 Contenneur, 8-1 Bracongill Lad, Mungo Park, 10-1 Captain Carat, Mon Bruce, Lillibella, Panther, Bashful Brave.

5.15 NEW HALL LIMITED STAKES
1m 2f £2,970 (13 declared)

1 (13) 111220 McGillycuddy Reeks (12) (C) (D) Emilio Inchia 6-9-7 — Kim Tinkler
2 (10) 253126 Florentino (81) (CD) B Hills 4-9-4 — M Hills
3 (7) 165400 Oneles (16) (CD) Miss S Wilton 6-9-4 — S Whitworth
4 (9) 0005-0 Access Adventurer (87) (CD) R Boss 6-9-2 — J Fortune
5 (3) 21-000 Blear (22) (D) C Brooks 4-9-2 — T Quinn
6 (6) 6/662- Home Of Dreams (J486) G M Moore 5-9-2 — J Tate
7 (5) 4-00 Reinsell (18) K Morgan 4-8-2 — B Peers
8 (1) 2/1035 Priolo Prima (82) (BF) Sir M Prescott 4-8-2 — K Darley
9 (8) 30-511 Is Distinct (18) (D) Mrs A Swinbank 3-9-0 — E Johnson
10 (11) -65402 Bobble Wings (14) (C) S Woods 5-8-13 — N Day
11 (4) 510430 Contentment (13) (D) J Hills 3-8-12 — J Carroll
12 (12) 313600 Rhapsody In White (15) M Jarvis 3-8-12 — D Holland ★
13 (2) 041300 Silent Valley (15) (D) Miss L Siddall 3-8-9 — G Bind ★

Betting: 5-2 Is Distinct, 4-1 Bobble Wings, 11-2 Priolo Prima, 13-2 Florentino, Contentment, 8-1 McGillycuddy Reeks, Rhapsody In White.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
K Fallon	40	201	19.9	+69.78	Mrs Ramsden	37	208	17.8	+17.03
K Darley	26	220	11.8	-78.53	J L Eyre	15	143	10.5	-0.25
L Dettori	24	126	19	-9.94	J Dunlop	14	51	27.5	+14.77
W Ryan	20	93	21.5	-29.76	R Hollinshead	12	168	7.15	-77.75
J Fortune	19	172	11	-6.02	J Berry	10	117	8.56	-55.50
Pat Eddery	17	44	38.6	+38.24	M Stoute	9	39	23.1	-11.94
J Carroll	14	136	10.3	-50.40	M Johnston	9	110	8.21	-42.00

Perth (N.H.) card

	RON COX	TOP FORM
2.15	Alarico	Ret Frem
2.50	Lymax	Paldost
3.20	Pride Of Kashmir	Keep Battling
3.50	Teejay'n'aitch	Battery Fired
4.20	Bourdonner	Bourdonner
4.55	Tom Brodie	Baba Au Rhum
5.25	Mr Tees Components	

Right-handed flat, easy circuit of 1¼m with 280yds run-in.
Going: Good to Firm (Good in places). ★ Denotes blinkers.
Long distance travellers: Pride of Kashmir (3.20) & Jaquiles Glen (5.25), P Hobbs, Somerset, 429 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: None.
Visored: 2.15 Young Wolf.

2.15 PRESS AND JOURNAL MAIDEN HURDLE
2m 4f 110yds £2,772 (8 declared)

1 4P20-2 Jack Doyy (26) Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-5 — M Foster
2 20/ Radical Reform (828) N Mason 8-11-5 — R Guest
3 340-50 Young Wolf (33) D Eddy 9-11-5 — A Thornton ★
4 00-0 Alarico (13) I Williams 4-11-3 — A P McCoy
5 262-4 Ret Frem (8) C Parker 4-11-3 — B Storey
6 0- Allforus (223) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-0 — D Parker (5)
7 2PP21- Forever Grey (145) J Howard Johnson 5-11-0 — A Maguire
8 0- Yeenoso (133) Mrs D Thomson 5-11-0 — L O'Hara

Betting: 15-8 Ret Frem, 5-2 Alarico, 11-4 Forever Grey, 7-1 Jack Doyy, 10-1 Radical Reform, 12-1 Young Wolf, 25-1 Allforus, 33-1 Yeenoso.

2.50 TRAVAIL GROUP JUVENILE HURDLE 3YO
2m 110yds £2,558 (6 declared)

1 34 Broadgate Flyer (9) D Lamb 10-10 — J Burke
2 Ilos Mashrak (F60) Mrs M Reveley 10-10 — P Niven
3 Lymax (F111) J Howard Johnson 10-10 — A Maguire
4 52 Paldost (8) M Hammond 10-10 — R Garritty
5 33 Real Fire (12) M Meagher 10-10 — F Leahy (3)
6 Boot (F34) R McKellar 10-5 — D Parker (3)

Betting: 7-4 Paldost, 3-1 Real Fire, 7-2 Broadgate Flyer, 9-2 Ilos Mashrak, 5-1 Lymax, 25-1 Boot.

3.20 WHEATSHEAF HANDICAP HURDLE
2m 110yds £3,022 (5 declared)

1 51/1-4 Keep Battling (26) (CD) (BF) J Goldie 7-11-10 — B McGrath (5)
2 21 Pride Of Kashmir (27) (C) P Hobbs 4-11-8 — G Tormey
3 5254-3 Rapid Mover (F38) (D) D Nolan 10-11-1 — A Maguire ★
4 0013-R Galway Boss (13) (D) I Williams 5-10-12 — A P McCoy
5 20P2-0 Noir Esprit (24) F Storey 4-10-8 — B Storey

Betting: 11-8 Pride Of Kashmir, 15-8 Galway Boss, 4-1 Keep Battling, 13-2 Rapid Mover, 12-1 Noir Esprit.

3.50 ESPRIT HANDICAP CHASE
2m £3,388 (6 declared)

1 1-1321 Know-No-No (26) (CD) M Hammond 8-12-0 — R Garritty
2 45/P- Strong Views (180) (CD) G A Harker 10-11-5 — A Thornton
3 4P-172 Auburn Boy (2) (D) (BF) I Williams 10-10-6 — A P McCoy
4 11-102 Teejay'n'aitch (F10) (CD) J Goldie 5-10-6 — S Taylor (5)
5 -24F12 Battery Fired (8) N Mason 8-10-5 — R Guest
6 32-152 Rebel King (24) (C) (D) M Barnes 7-10-1 — B Storey

Betting: 9-4 Know-No-No, 11-4 Teejay'n'aitch, 7-2 Battery Fired, 9-2 Rebel King, 7-1 Auburn Boy, 33-1 Strong Views.

4.20 HIGHLAND SPRING HANDICAP HURDLE
3m 110yds £2,684 (4 declared)

1 11112/ Hit The Canvas (F446) (C) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 6-12-0 — P Niven
2 21-222 Bourdonner (36) (CD) (BF) M Hammond 5-11-6 — Mr C Bonner (5)
3 1/6U4- Synecrok Cynario (F86) N Chamberlain 8-10-4 — B Storey
4 /365P- Jubran (F33) (C) J Dodds 11-10-0 — A Maguire

Betting: 5-4 Bourdonner, 2-1 Hit The Canvas, 3-1 Synecrok Cynario, 14-1 Jubran.

4.55 MURRAYSHALL HOTEL NOVICE CHASE
2m £3,371 (5 declared)

1 /PP6-1 Baba Au Rhum (12) (D) I Williams 5-11-1 — A P McCoy
2 U525-1 Anabranch (12) (D) J Jefferson 6-10-12 — E Callaghan (5)
3 3045-3 Cottstown Boy (27) Mrs S Bradburne 6-10-10 — M Foster
4 42000- Tom Brodie (145) (D) J Howard Johnson 7-10-10 — A Maguire
5 0/5450 On Golden Pond (1) N Mason 7-10-5 — R Guest ★

Betting: 5-4 Tom Brodie, 5-2 Anabranch, 11-4 Baba Au Rhum, 12-1 Cottstown Boy, 25-1 On Golden Pond.

5.25 EBF ALBERT BARTLETT & SON NH FLAT RACE
2m 110yds £1,646 (15 declared)

1 Dazza N Mason 5-11-4 — Mr C Bonner (5)
2 2- Little Duke (180) Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-4 — Mr M Bradburne (7)
3 2/ Mr Tees Components (598) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-4 — G Lee (3)
4 Amoebic M Todhunter 4-11-2 — C McCormack (7)
5 Just Jaky J Johnson 4-11-2 — E Callaghan (3)
6 Lord of The Land Diane Sayer 4-11-2 — R McGrath (5)
7 What Becomes I Ferguson(IRE) 4-11-2 — Mr B R Hamilton (5)
8 Heavenly Thought Mrs D Thomson 6-10-13 — Miss P Robson
9 0- Insanda (133) Miss L Russell 5-10-12 — N Horrocks (7)
10 0- Bred For Pleasure (182) W Cunningham 4-10-11 — Mr S Durack (7)
11 Jaquiles Glen P Hobbs 4-10-11 — D J Kavanagh (5)
12 0- Jonnedy (139) Mrs D Thomson 4-10-11 — D Parker (5)
13 Madaal P Monteith 4-10-11 — Mr R Hale
14 Sillymore P Monteith 4-10-11 — I Jardine (7)
15 Tenerife Girl F Murtagh 4-10-11 — S Taylor (5)

Betting: 2-1 Mr Tees Components, 9-4 Jaquiles Glen, 7-1 What Becomes, 8-1 Just Jaky, 14-1 Little Duke, Amoebic, 20-1 Sillymore, Tenerife Girl.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
P Niven	25	76	32.9	-12.08	M Reveley	23	57	40.4	+10.07
A Dobbin	19	81	23.5	+22.65	M Hammond	23	101	22.8	-2.00
B Storey	13	131	9.9	-55.23	P Monteith	17	81	21.0	+15.47
R Garritty	12	54	22.2	-9.29	P Hobbs	15	29	51.7	+12.33
K Williamson	10	37	27	-15.80	J Goldie	15	53	28.3	+18.30
A P McCoy	9	32	28.1	-1.83	M Barnes	6	40	15.7	+9.95
P Carberry	9	40	22.5	-2.85	J H Johnson	5	53	9.43	-18.75

Football: Premiership

Manchester United 2, Chelsea 2

Solskjaer spares Red blushes

Ian Ross

ON A bruising night of typically English football played out by a host of foreign names, Manchester United needed a late goal to salvage a point and respectability.

With barely three minutes left the substitute, Ole Solskjaer, swept a magnificent rising drive just inside a post to add some lustre to what had been an uncompromising evening. Even so, Chelsea did enough, just, to lend credence to the belief that they may not have to rely on cup football for success this season.

Chelsea's arrival had been prefaced by the sort of scene-setting speech from Alex Ferguson that has become an irritating trademark of the United manager. The ploy is simple — heap praise on the opposition and hope that they become complacent.

Perhaps Ferguson had a point, though. Chelsea's record at Old Trafford since he took charge more than a decade ago is nothing short of miraculous, just two defeats in nine previous games, constituting the best return of any Premiership club.

Enticing though the prospect of pitting United's astute sense of organisation against Chelsea's flair was, this was a game with a most pronounced competitive streak. The season may still be in its infancy but already the stakes are high.

Paul Scholes almost headed United in front inside the opening minute, but once the game eased into a sensible rhythm, Chelsea found their opponents' more methodical approach very much to their liking.

Returning to his most treasured hunting ground, Mark Hughes seemed likely to underline Chelsea's marginal supremacy after running on to Dan Petrescu's well-flighted pass but his shot from an unsympathetic angle barely troubled Peter Schmeichel.

The game had become becalmed in a bout of shadow boxing when, unexpectedly, Chelsea's patient and determined prodding at United's soft underbelly was rewarded midway through the opening half. It was a freak goal.



United they stand . . . Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes combine to leave Chelsea's Frank Leboeuf flat on his back at Old Trafford CLIVE BRUNSKILL

As the United defence retreated, Graeme Le Saux ignored the claims of better placed team-mates and shot. Schmeichel dropped down to his left but could not hold a raking drive and, as he started to get back up, the ball struck Henning Berg on the knee and looped over his goalkeeper.

Then with one contentious decision, the match officials applied a spark to the tinderbox. Ten minutes before the interval, Cole set off in pursuit of Gary Pallister's huge clearance. He had appeared to be offside but, as Chelsea raised a collective arm in protest, play was waved on.

Cole ran to the byline before pulling back a square pass which Scholes sidefooted home — and all hell broke lose. As the linesmen and referee were surrounded by furious players, Chelsea's manager Ruud Gullit, who was one of the substitutes, made his own touchline protest.

It was all to no avail and as Chelsea's sense of injustice got the better of their reason, United almost scored again, Pallister striking the crossbar with a fine header.

The half-time recess had a calming effect and the second period, while still robust, came to resemble more match than mayhem.

But slowly Gianfranco Zola emerged as a pivotal figure and after 68 minutes Chelsea moved back in front when Mark Hughes turned in a Dan Petrescu cross after Schmeichel had failed to intercept.

Manchester United (4-4-1-1): Schmeichel; G Neville (Giggs, 78min), Pallister, Berg, Irwin; Poborsky (Sheringham, 65), Beckham, Butt, Keane; Scholes (Solskjaer, 65); Cole.

Chelsea (4-4-2): De Goey; P Hughes, Leboeuf, Myers, Le Saux; Petrescu, Wise, Poyet, Lambourde; Zola, M Hughes.

Referee G Willard (West Sussex).

'No fights, just pressure' forced Keegans exit

Michael Walker gets to the bottom of the Newcastle split

SO, SOME eight months on, Kevin Keegan appears to be returning to football. The question that has not been satisfactorily answered, however, is why he left in the first place.

With the serialisation of his autobiography beginning in the Sun in 11 days, Keegan may reveal all. Yet, disappointingly for the tabloid which has paid a large sum for the rights to the book, the definitive explanation of Keegan's departure from Newcastle United is relatively mundane.

"No fights, no rows, just pressure" was how a senior voice at Newcastle yesterday described the reasons for Keegan's leaving.

Rather more dramatic theories have been expressed since Wednesday, January 8. Keegan's ego clashing with Sir John Hall's is one, Keegan's avarice another, and even actual physical confrontations — but none of these is true, according to Newcastle.

Why, then, has Keegan's book been "banned" from United's club shops? Newcastle say it has not been "banned" and they will review the situation on publication.

The club say the origins of Keegan's exit lie, unsurprisingly, in the loss of the 12-point lead towards the end of the 1995-96 season and the pressure Keegan inflicted upon himself thereafter. After losing 2-0 to Arsenal on March 23, Newcastle went second for the first time that season. Three games later, after another defeat, this time at Blackburn, it is said Keegan told his superiors: "I can take this team no further, it's time for someone else."

Discussions began with the board — who viewed their relationship with Keegan as "great" — and in the week of the last game of the season at home to Tottenham, Keegan intimated that he had changed his mind and fancied another chance.

The board, though, having witnessed Keegan's famous "I'd love it" explosion at Elland Road, insisted he relax over the summer. They still believed in him, backing his £15 million signing of Alan Shearer, and yet even before Christmas it was apparent the summer break had not been successful and Keegan was no longer the bubbly enthusiast of previous seasons.

And last Christmas Keegan decided his initial decision after the Blackburn defeat had been the right one but said he would stay until the end of last season. He talked genuinely, say Newcastle, of wanting to spend more time with his family, of Newcastle's geographical position and the time demands involved in travelling to and from the north-east scouting for players.

But this posed problems for Newcastle because at the same time they decided to have a public flotation which legally requires that all contracts are fully disclosed.

There was also a not inconsiderable matter of buying and selling players and Newcastle had a substantial offer for Lee Clark on the table. Finally, could Keegan be relied upon not to change his mind again?

The crunch came with Keegan's tense performance at Charlton after a third-round FA Cup tie. Keegan walked out of a press conference, having been asked if he had offered his resignation and Newcastle wondered what messages were being sent out by such gestures.

Within 48 hours Keegan was off to Florida and six days later Kenny Dalglish was the new manager.



Hall . . . rumours of clashes with Keegan

Arsenal 4, West Ham United 0

Bergkamp shows his calibre as Gunners lead the way

David Lacey

DENNIS BERGKAMP in his pomp proved far too much for West Ham United at Highbury last night. After the Dutchman had given Arsenal an early lead with his eighth goal of the season — his first at home — West Ham conceded three more before half-time.

The win takes Arsenal to the top of the table, but their credentials will be tested in November and early December, when they meet Manchester United, Liverpool and Newcastle United in quick succession, so they did not want to grow careless now. London derbies, of which there are 30 this season, will always be an extra handicap for teams from the capital with title pretensions. Arsenal had already dropped two home points in a goalless draw with Tottenham but they had won at Chelsea only three days earlier.

West Ham's need for points was as great Arsenal's. After an encouraging start to the season, they had lost three games in succession despite playing enterprising football. Injuries continued to weaken Harry Redknapp's side and last night they were without Eyal Berkovic as well as Paul Kitson and, in the longer term, Julian Dicks.

Arsenal were able to pass the ball among themselves in a rather more relaxed fashion than they had allowed to do amid the rush and bustle at Stamford Bridge. Patrick Vieira and Emmanuel Petit had more time and space in which to navigate, and Bergkamp operates in a time-space continuum anyway.

Arsenal needed just a dozen minutes to take the lead. A long precise ball from Petit deep in his own half found Bergkamp striding past Ian Pearce, and although the centre-back almost caught him up, the Dutchman still managed to roll the ball into the far corner of the net.

Arsenal's defence, which had Gilles Grimandi replacing an injured Lee Dixon on the quarter-hour, then caught the general mood of relaxation and nearly gave the opposition a couple of goals. A short low cross from Iain Dowie, who had been sent clear by John Hartson, beat David Seaman but Nigel Winterburn cleared the danger before Frank Lampard could score. Then Seaman failed to reach a cross from Stan Lazaridis and after Dowie had nodded the ball back, first Tim Breacker then Lampard failed to exploit the defence's discomfiture.

Bergkamp, meanwhile, was putting on a show. Midway through the first half, he accepted a pass from Marc Overmars and bounced the ball twice on an instep before laying it square for Ian Wright to shoot straight at Miklosko.

The contest was over by half-time, Arsenal having scored three more goals in six minutes. In the 39th minute, Bergkamp collected a slack header from Breacker and sent Overmars scampering away on the left. The winger then cut across before turning sharply to drive the ball inside the near post.

Four minutes later, Wright found the net with a penalty after Pearce had handled. On the stroke of half-time, Vieira, Wright and Bergkamp combined to send in Overmars for his second, this one slipped under Miklosko's body.

Arsenal lost Winterburn, hurt in a tackle with Hartson, for the second half but it made little difference. The reign of Bergkamp remained undisturbed.

Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Dixon, Adams, Bould, Winterburn; Parlour, Vieira, Petit, Overmars; Wright, Bergkamp.

West Ham (3-5-2): Miklosko; Pearce, Unsworth, Ferdinand; Breacker, Lampard, Lomas, Bishop, Lazaridis; Dowie, Hartson.

Referee P Alcock (Redhill).

Newcastle United 1, Everton 0

Everton caught on the rebound

Michael Walker

A WEEK is a long time in football and the cliche earned itself another outing last night when seven days after dismantling Barcelona, Newcastle United took an age to conquer the rather less daunting opposition offered by Everton.

But after a frustrating evening Robert Lee, Newcastle's captain, ran on to a deflected effort from Darren Peacock that bounced awkwardly and smacked a volley in off the under side of the cross-bar.

Paul Gerrard, in Everton's goal, was given no chance and there were two minutes left. Everton, having survived the 62nd-minute sending-off of Slaven Bilic, deserved better.

Everton had arrived in the North East with the underwhelming record of no away wins in the Premiership since last December. With Duncan Ferguson on the bench the task of rectifying that situation fell to the small and smaller duo of 17-year-olds, Danny Cadamarteri and Nick Barmby.

In a lively opening Everton showed intelligence. Firm in the tackle, Newcastle struggled to penetrate Everton's midfield until Philippe Albert's chip to Asprilla bypassed it in the 18th minute.

On the end of Asprilla's sharp downward header was Jon Dahl Tomasson, but his shot was well parried by Gerrard. From the resulting corner Gerrard made another good block from an Albert header but with Newcastle upping the tempo Gerrard was then passed by a volley from Keith Gillespie. Fortunately for Gerrard, the shot passed the post, too.

Subdued the crowd may have been but straight after half-time a couple of reckless tackles from Bilic raised the decibel level — Bilic was booked for one of these on Gillespie — and the home side pressed forward again. But with John Barnes and Gillespie offering insufficient width Everton were able to smother Asprilla in the blue blanket.

Bilic, who had a running battle with the Colombian from the first whistle, took this to extremes and just past the hour he received a second yellow card in the space of 14 minutes for fouling Asprilla for the umpteenth time. Almost immediately Albert scooped a shot over and then *Gillespie sliced a Barnes* cross wide.

It the Irishman's last act — what a difference from last Wednesday — as Kenny Dalglish introduced Warren Barton and Ian Rush. Yet the Welshman's *first touch only took the* ball away from Steve Watson, poised to throw his head at another Barnes centre.

Newcastle United (4-3-3): Given; S Watson, Peacock, Albert, Pistone; Lee (Barnsford, .90min), Batty, Barnes; Gillespie (Barton 76), Tomasson (Rush, 76), Asprilla.

Everton (4-4-2): Gerrard; Barrett, D Watson, Bilic, Hinchcliffe; Stuart, Speed, Grant, Oster; Cadamarteri (Fergusson, 76), Barmby (Ball, 64).

Referee G Poll (Tring).

Leicester City 1, Blackburn Rovers 1

Honours even as Izzet replies

Jeremy Alexander

LEICESTER and Blackburn seemed dizzy at the height they have reached this season and took a while last night to find their feet. But each half had a spell of desperate excitement before both sides ended happy to preserve their records.

Leicester remain unbeaten at home, Blackburn away, as Chris Sutton's ninth goal of the season was soon cancelled by Muzzy Izzet before half-time.

Steve Walsh, the captain and epitome of Leicester's spirit, was missing for the first time — with a hamstring injury — but the spirit is now ingrained, as they showed when Rovers took the lead against the run of play. Ian Marshall moved to the back three and Graham Fenton made his first start of the season beside Emile Heskey.

Fenton, eager to show Rovers their folly in selling *him, did* well to reach a deep cross at the goalline and nod it back to Pontus Kzamark for a clear shot. He then went closer with a shot himself, from Heskey's lay back. By then Tim Flowers had got *himself into* all kinds of trouble after punching when he might have caught. Colin Hendry headed off the line under pressure from Heskey and the danger was not cleared until the goalkeeper had contributed several lunges, another punch and a header.

Apart from a 30-yard free-kick by Sutton, Kasey Keller was idle until a burst of action 10 minutes before half-time when he saved twice but was beaten between times, all in three minutes. He twice denied Martin Dahlin but was unable to stop Sutton's 20-yard drive when Izzet failed to flick away Kevin Gallacher's cross. Izzet made amends in six minutes. Fenton dispossessed Gallacher at the goalline, Hendry headed out but the ball reached Izzet who volleyed it brilliantly across Flowers into the corner. Matt Elliott could have put Leicester ahead before the interval but, unmarked, he barely connected with Heskey's chip to the far post.

When Henchoz was replaced by Lars Bohinen at half-time Sutton moved back, like Marshall. The game fell back into its sober early form until midway through the half, when Hendry headed out Fenton's centre, then deflected Rob Savage's goal-bound shot lying on the ground. From the corner Marshall and Spencer Prior each had a shot cleared off the line.

Leicester City (3-5-2): Keller; Prior, Elliott, Marshall; Kasmark, Parker (Savage, 65min), Lennon, Izzet, Guppy; Heskey, Fenton (Corica, 78).

Blackburn Rovers (4-4-2): Flowers; Valery (McKinlay, 87), Hendry, Henchoz (Bohinen, h-t), Kenna; Gallacher, Sherwood, Filtcroft, Wilcox; Dahlin, Sutton.

Referee N Barry (Scunthorpe).

Results

Football

COCA-COLA CUP

Second round, second leg

Stoke (1) 2 Keen 36 Thorne 77	Barnsley (0) 0 6,041 *(agg: 5–0)*
Wolverhampton (0) 1 Goodman 89 *(agg: 2–0)*	Fulham (0) 0 17,882

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Arsenal (4) 4 Bergkamp 12 Overmars 39, 45 Wright 42 (pen)	West Ham (0) 0 38,012
Coventry (1) 1 Dublin 8 15,900	C Palace (1) 1 Fullarton 9
Leicester (1) 1 Izzet 43 19,521	Blackburn (1) 1 Sutton 36
Man Utd (1) 2 Scholes 36 Solskjaer 88 55,163	Chelsea (1) 2 Berg 25 (og) M Hughes 68
Newcastle (0) 1 Lee 87	Everton (0) 0 36,705
Sheff Wed (2) 2 Di Canio 5 Carbone 12 (pen) 22,391	Derby (3) 5 Baiano 7, 48 Laursen 28 Wanchope 33 Burton 75
Southampton (0) 0 15,102	Leeds (1) 2 Molenaar 36 Wallace 55

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

First Division

QPR (1) 1 Spencer 44	Portsmouth (0) 0 12,620

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Premier Division

Kilmarnock (0) 0 15,387	Rangers (0) 3 Negri 49, 82 Stensaas 90

WORLD CUP: European Qualifying: Group Two: Moldova 0, Georgia 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	7	6	0	1	15	2	18
Italy	7	5	2	0	11	1	17
Poland	8	2	1	5	7	9	7
Georgia	7	2	1	4	4	12	7
Moldova	7	0	0	7	2	18	0

Remaining fixtures: Oct 7: Moldova v Poland. **Oct 11:** Italy v England; Georgia v Poland.

Group Six: Malta 0, Czech Rep 1; Slovakia 1, Spain 2.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bishop Auckland 0, Boston Utd 2. **First Division: Bradford PA 1,** Whitby Tn 1.

BR MARITIMES LEAGUE: Premier Division: Forest Grn 1, Dorchester 0; Salisbury 2, Merthyr 6. **Midland Division:** Paget Rngrs 3, Grantham Tn 4. **Southern Division:** Newport AFC 3, Clevedon Tn 2.

N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Prescot Cables 3, St Helens Tn 3; Ramsbottom Utd 0, Newcastle Tn 3.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Denaby Utd 4, Thackley 0; Hallam 0, Ossett Alb 5.

SCRUMFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier Division: Taunton Tn 0, Tiverton Tn 4.

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Tranmere 2, Liverpool 3. **First Division:** Bolton 3, Sunderland 0; West Brom 0, Oldham 0. **Second Division:** Carlisle 1, Stockport 1; Rochdale 1, Blackpool 3; Shrewsbury 1, Barnsley 0. **Third Division:** Chesterfield 5, Bury 1; Doncaster 3, Chester 4; Hull 0, Scarborough 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Luton 3, Watford 1; Oxford Utd 4, Southampton 1; Tottenham 2, Charlton 1; Wimbledon 0, Millwall 1; Swindon 1, Norwich 2.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cove Rngrs 2, Peterhead 4; Nairn Co 1, Elgin C 2.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 1, Caersws 0; Caernarfon Tn 1, Carmey 1; Carmarthen Tn 2, Inter Cable-Tel 0; Cemaes Ynys Mon 1, Flint Tn 2; Ebbw Vale 2, Cwmbran 1; Porthmadog 0, Rhyl 2.

ITALIAN CUP: Second round, second leg: Juventus 4, Brescello 0 (agg: 5–1).

GERMAN CUP: Second rounds: Stuttgart 2, Hertha Berlin 0; Bayer Leverkusen 2, Hamburg 1 (aet); SpVgg Grauther Fuerth 2, Borussia Dortmund 4; Hanover 96 2, *1860 Munich 1*; Saarbrucken 0, Kaiserslautern 4; SV Meppen 4, Stuttgart Kickers 1; SSV Ulm 1846 4, FSV Mainz 05 1; VfB Mannheim 1, FC Carl Zeiss Jena 1 (aet; Jena won 4–3 on pens).

DUTCH LEAGUE: Roda 4, NEC Nijmegen 0; Volendam 0, De Graafschap 5; SC Heerenveen 0, PC Twente 0; NAC Breda 0, FC Groningen 0; Feyenoord 5, Vitesse Arnheim 1; Wilhelm II 3, Washvijk 2; Ajax 7, Maastricht 0.

Tennis

GRAND SLAM CUP (Munich): **First round:** P Rafter (Aus) bt T Muster (Aut) 6–2, 6–3; J Bjorkman (Swe) bt B Becker (Ger) 6–3, 6–2; P Korda (Cz) bt G Kuerten (Bri) 6–3, 5–3 ret; P Sampras (US) bt F Mantilla (Sp) 6–4, 6–3, 6–2.

ATP TOULOUSE GRAND PRIX: First round: T Haas (Ger) bt O Ogorodov (Uz) 6–4, 6–2; A Clement (Fr) bt D Prinosil (Ger) 6–4, 6–4; L Roux (Fr) bt S Schalken (Neth) 7–6, 6–4; F Santoro (Fr) bt R Lavergne (Fr) 3–6, 7–6, 6–1; G Ribeux (Fr) bt O Delaitre (Fr) 6–3, 6–2.

ATP ROMANIAN OPEN (Bucharest): **First round:** J Antonio (Sp) bt M Filippini (Ur) 6–2, 6–3; A Voinea (Rom) bt T Carbonell (Sp) 7–6, 6–1. **Second round:** M Goellner (Ger) bt C Ruud (Nor) 6–2, 5–7, 6–2; F Clavet (Sp) bt T Behrend (Ger) 7–6, 6–4; J Sanchez (Sp) bt A Correjta (Sp) 6–3, 4–6, 7–5; C Costa (Sp) bt C Moya (Sp) 6–0, 4–6, 6–4.

WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX (Leipzig): **First round:** A Huber (Ger) bt S Farina (It) 6–4, 6–2; Y Basuki (Ind) bt A Coetzioux (Fr) 7–6, 6–3; M Hingis (Switz) bt M Maruska (Aut) 6–3, 7–6; S Appelmans (Bel) bt M Oremans (Neth) 2–6, 6–3, 7–5. **Second round:** M Grzybowska (Pol) bt B Paulus (Aut) 6–2, 7–6; J Novotna (Cz) bt J Kruger (SA) 6–0, 6–4.

LTA SUMMER SATELLITE (Sunderland): (GB unless stated): **Mens First rounds:** A Parmar bt R Hangar 6–1, 6–2; N Gould bt A Popp (Ger) 6–0, 6–1; M Zabkevic (Bel) bt A Naumann (Aus) 6–1, 6–2; T Spinks bt P Erhardt (Ger) 6–4, 6–3; P Robinson bt P Magga 6–2, 6–2; D Sapsford bt A Foster 6–1, 6–0; C Wall bt N Greenhouse 6–4, 6–3, 6–0; M Gregoire (Slo) bt M Hilton 6–4, 6–2; G Klessner (Bel) bt A Gonzalez (Sp) 6–3, 6–3; L Milligan bt J Fox 6–1, 6–2; R Matheson bt C Bennett 6–3, 3–6, 6–3; W Herbert bt J Layne (Gr) 7–5, 7–6; N Wallis bt M Lee 6–4, 6–4; D Lobb bt D Belcher 6–3, 3–6, 7–6; P Barbier (Fr) bt S Cowan 7–5, 2–6, 7–6; N Weal bt M Trudgeon 6–4, 3–6, 7–5. **Womens First rounds:** L Ogan bt C Smith 6–4, 6–3. **Second rounds:** L Lattimer bt J Dawson 6–3, 3–6, 6–2; N Payne bt L Gabel (Ger) 6–3, 6–2; N Egorova (Rus) bt K Elliott 6–3, 6–0; L Cartwright bt M Wolfbrandt (Swe) 0–6, 6–2, 6–3; M Joubert (SA) bt S Lydon 7–6, 7–6; M Persson (Swe) bt L McDonald 6–1, 6–2; A Wallenwright bt A Buergis (Switz) 6–1, 6–0.

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (Surabaya, Indo): **First rounds:** N Miyagi (Japan) bt J Watanabe (US) 6–4, 6–3. **Second rounds:** S Pitkowski (Fr) bt K-A Guse (Aus) 6–3, 4–6, 6–3; L Nemesicova (Cz) bt E De Lone (US) 6–1 3–0 ret; D Van Roost (Bel) bt M Seidel (Ger) 7–6, 6–3; N Inoue (Japan) bt H Nagyova (Slovak) 6–3, 5–7, 7–5; N Pratt (Aus) bt T Tanasugarn (Tha) 7–5, 6–2.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Oakland 6, Texas 14; Milwaukee 7, Kansas City 4 (1st game); Milwaukee 2, Kansas City 6 (2nd); Cleveland 10, NY Yankees 8; Detroit 6, Boston 0; Toronto 2, Baltimore 3; Chicago WS 3, Minnesota 5; Seattle 4, Anaheim 3.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 0, Atlanta 6; Montreal 3, Florida 8; NY Mets 4, Pittsburgh 5; Houston 5, Chicago Cubs 3; St Louis 6, Cincinnati 5; Colorado 7, San Francisco 6; Los Angeles 6, San Diego 2.

Basketball

EUROLEAGUE: Group B: Turk Telekom Ankara 80, Estudiantes Madrid 88. **Group D:** Olimpija Ljubljana 71, AEK Athens 74; Cibona Zagreb 87, Teamsystem Bologna 92.

Bowls

EUROPEAN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Guernsey): **First rounds:** Ireland bt Jersey 15–10; Wales bt Holland 35–7; Scotland bt Spain 20–15; Guernsey bt England 20–16; Wales bt Guernsey 26–8; Ireland bt Spain 25–11; Scotland bt Holland 35–8; England bt Jersey 22–15. **Second rounds:** Guernsey bt Spain 21–16; Scotland bt England 22–8, Ireland bt Wales 23–13; Jersey bt Holland 33–7; Jersey bt Holland 16–15; England bt Spain 18–12; Scotland bt Guernsey 19–9; Ireland bt Wales 19–12. **Third rounds:** Scotland bt Holland 33–6; Wales bt Guernsey 23–8; Jersey bt Spain 22–10; England bt Ireland 18–12; Guernsey bt Jersey 24–10; Ireland bt Scotland 17–12; Wales bt England 27–14; Spain bt Holland 22–21.

Cycling

TOUR OF SPAIN: Stage 18 (Burgos to Valladolid; 183.7km): 1, L van Bon (Neth) Rabobank 3hr 52min 30sec; 2, L Brochard (Fr) Lotus; 3, S Colage (It) Refin; 4, M Piccoli (It) Brescialat; 5, C Chiappucci (It) Asics; 6, J-V Garcia Acosta (Sp) Banesto; 7, V Ekimov (Rus) US Postal; 8, I Gaideano (Sp) Euskalte all same time; 9, S Ouslamine (Rus) Refin at 37sec; 10, D Pieri (It) Scrigno 4.25; 11, A di Basco (It) Saeco; 12, B Thibout (Fr) Casino all at; Overall: 1, A Zuelle (Switz) ONCE 77hr 4min 59sec; 2, F Escartin (Sp) Kelme at 2min 46sec; 3, L Dufaux (Switz) Lotus 3.38; 4, E Zaina (It) Asics 5.07; 5, R Heras (Sp) Kelme 6.17; 6, M Serrano (Sp) Kelme 7.10; 7, D Clavero (Sp) Estepona 7.22; 8, L Jalabert (Fr) ONCE 8.51; 9, G Faresin (It) Mapei 11.10; 10, Ledanois 11.22; 11, Chiappucci 12.57; 12, P Bordenave (Fr) Casino 13.10.

Hockey

JUNIOR WORLD CUP (Milton Keynes): **Pool A:** Netherlands 8, Cuba 2; Australia 1, Spain 1; India 4, Belgium 2. **Final standings:** 1, Australia 11pts; 2=, India, Spain 10; 4, Netherlands 7. **Pool B:** Germany 4, Egypt 1. **Final standings:** 1, Germany 12pts; 2, England 9; 3, Pakistan 8; 4, Argentina 2.

Ice Hockey

BENSON & HEDGES CUP: Paisley 2, Ayr 11.

Snooker

THAILAND MASTERS (Hereford): **Final qualifying rounds:** J Ferguson (Eng) bt B Sneddon (Scot) 5–3; S Peters (Eng) bt R Lawler (Eng) 5–1; A Hicks (Eng) bt J Prince (NI) 5–1; S James (Eng) bt S Mazrocis (Eng) 5–2; J Birch (Eng) bt T Murphy (NI) 5–4.

Squash

US OPEN (Rush Creek, Minn): **First rounds:** S Parke (Eng) bt M Chaloner (Eng) 15–9, 14–15, 15–12, 15–4; A Ali (Aus) bt B Martin (Aus) 15–9, 13–15, 15–11, 7–15, 15–9; A Gough (Wales) bt C Walker (Eng) 13–15, 15–11, 15–7, 12–15, 15–13; P Nicol (Scot) bt M Cairns (Eng) 12–15, 15–7, 15–12, 16–17, 15–11. **Women:** C Jackman (Eng) bt T Beresford (NI) 9–2, 9–3, 9–1; P Gawnes (Eng) bt M Zein (Egypt) 9–8, 9–3, 9–1, 9–7; S Warner (Eng) bt S Brind (Eng) 9–3, 9–0, 9–1; M Gandiagan (SA) bt D Holleran (US) 9–3, 9–3, 10–8.

Fixtures

Football

PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aston Villa v Sheff Wed (7.0); Blackburn v Stoke (7.0). **First Division:** Notts Co v Coventry (7.0). **Second Division:** Burnley v Wrexham (7.15). **Third Division:** Walsall v Scunthorpe (7.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: QPR v Ipswich (7.0).

WELSH CUP: First-round replay: Briton Ferry Ath v AFC Rhondda (7.30).

Basketball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards v Leicester (7.0).

Hockey

TOUR MATCH: Reading v Slarkia (8.0).

Newcastle advised to lower sights

Ian King

NEWCASTLE United are understood to have been privately advised by media strategists against launching a pay-per-view television channel for their fans.

The news will come as a blow to other Premiership clubs because Newcastle, who came to the stock market in April with a price tag of £193 million, were seen as one of the more serious likely beneficiaries of pay-per-view.

The news comes as a comprehensive survey of fans is about to report that pay-per-view revenues will be sharply lower than City forecasts had suggested.

The report by the business publisher Fletcher Research and media consultancy Oliver & Ohlbaum, says pay-per-view will generate £450 million a year by 2003 — against some City forecasts earlier this year of £2 billion.

Although Newcastle emerge in the survey as England's third best-supported club, behind Manchester United and Liverpool, their estimated 1.5 million followers are far more locally based.

Because of Newcastle's localised following, along with the slightly weaker spending power of their supporters, the club are understood to have been told that launching a pay-per-view channel might not be economically viable.

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Football

Pallister red turns to yellow

GARY PALLISTER was yesterday cleared of the first red card of his eight-year career at Manchester United after the referee studied a video of the incident before filing his report of the game to the Football Association.

The England defender faced a three-match ban after he was dismissed by Paul Durkin for a confrontation with the Bolton striker Nathan Blake in Saturday's game at the Reebok Stadium. But Durkin, who reaffirmed his decision to dismiss Blake, has now ruled that Pallister should only have been shown a yellow-card for "adopting an aggressive attitude".

Blake caught the back of Pallister's leg well after the ball had gone and the pair squared up to each other twice, but Pallister kept his arms by his side as Blake struck him.

Tony Yeboah has finally left Leeds United. The Ghanaian completed his £1 million move to the German club Hamburg after months of uncertainty.

Yeboah's move back to Germany — where he formerly played for Saarbrucken and Eintracht Frankfurt — had been delayed over tax problems. These have now been ironed out and the 31-year-old striker has signed a two-year contract at Hamburg despite late interest from the Turkish side Trabzonspor and Lecce of Italy.

Colin Bell, Manchester City's most capped England player, is suing the club over his sacking during the summer.

Bell, a City player for 13 years in the Sixties and Seventies when he scored 150 goals and made nearly 500 appearances, was dismissed as joint youth development officer along with Terry Farrell in a Maine Road end-of-season clear-out which also saw another former player and the club's youth-team manager Neil McNab shown the door.

Bell is taking his case to an industrial tribunal to see if his sacking was fair. The hearing could be a huge embarrassment to the club since it is scheduled to take place immediately before City's annual meeting on October 17.

Anderlecht will not challenge the one-year ban from European competition for making payments to the referee in the Uefa Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest in 1984. The club's lawyer Daniel Spretels said: "At the moment there is no question of taking Uefa to court."

A group of Forest players is considering suing the club for compensation in the Belgian courts.

Spurs have to wait for Ravanelli

TOTTENHAM are refusing to confirm whether or not they are trying to sign Fabrizio Ravanelli on a three-month loan deal, but yesterday the striker's agent revealed that his future is "24 hours" from being settled.

The Tottenham manager Gerry Francis opted for the more offical line, however, saying: "I never talk about other club's players."

Francis had talks with the Spurs operations manager Daniel Sugar before Tuesday's draw at Bolton and is understood to have asked if Middlesbrough could be contacted about Ravanelli.

Although the London club are hoping Les Ferdinand will be available for Saturday's visit of Wimbledon, Chris Armstrong is not yet match-fit while Steffan Iversen is injured. Should the deal go through, it is likely Spurs will be given the option to sign Ravanelli permanently.

Newcastle's Temur Ketsbaia scored the only goal in Georgia's World Cup qualifying win in Moldova yesterday. It left the home side pointless, bottom of Group Two and rendered their results meaningless in calculations for the runners-up spot. Georgia had Kakhi Kaladze and Giorgi Kinkladze sent off, the Manchester City player making the long walk with the Moldovan Alexandru Curtianu.

The Kick Racism Out of Football (KIO) campaign has received reports of alleged racist abuse by Leeds fans aimed at Asian supporters of Leicester City during last Saturday's home defeat at Elland Road.

The group is understood to be concerned about abuse emanating from the North Stand at Elland Road. Leeds say they are taking action but KIO has asked for a meeting with the club to help with any measures that are taken.

"The re-emergence of abuse of such intensity at a major Premier League club is disappointing," said a campaign spokesman. "We are available to advise on action and to work on the problem."

Golf: The Ryder Cup



Just one of the guys . . . Tiger Woods accepts a high-five from his team-mate Phil Mickelson during practice at Valderrama PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENT REBOURS

Tiger hunts for a place in pack

Paul Hayward on the barriers the American prodigy is trying to overcome in an attempt to give his best to the team in Valderrama

TIGER WOODS was discussing romantic attachments but he could just as easily have been talking about his life in golf: "I'm as single as it gets."

Woods is 21. The average age of the American Ryder Cup team is 33. Woods is black. The other 23 players in the competition are white. Woods is golf's first product of the Nike celebrity factory. The other 11 Americans are country-club. The most compelling question of the coming three days is how those ingredients will mix.

All week there have been mutterings about how Woods will fit into the vaunted "team". His art is founded on stunning individual brilliance; socially, he is not one of the locker-room jocks. The Americans have expended plenty of words to convince the world that their team is not made up of 11-plus-one.

Publicly, they are saying Woods is "just one of the guys". Privately, there is an acknowledgement that the distance between him and his elders is unlikely to close entirely before tee-off time tomorrow. If he looked at the British papers yesterday, he will have seen a back-page headline describing him as an "outcast". The article was based, scandalously, on a gentle remark Tom Watson made in July at the Open suggesting that Woods ought to mingle more.

Watson was not the first to say it. In a golf magazine this month, an unnamed Ryder Cup team-mate of Woods is quoted as saying: "There are a lot of guys who want to like Tiger and get along with him, yet he doesn't always make it easy for us to do that."

This raises many complex issues. The natural suspicion might be that Woods has been ostracised by a white golfing establishment which resents his youth and talent and, in some primitive recesses, his colour. But the sages on the ultra-conservative circuit insist that Woods has been aloof, that he stayed at the Turnberry Hotel for the Open and flew in to Royal Troon by helicopter when everybody else travelled with the throng, that he sulked at the 1995 Walker Cup in Wales because he had to eat at an official dinner when all he wanted was junk food.

Then there was the story of his refusing to sign a ball that was to form part of a set autographed by all the living Masters champions. The collection was to be auctioned for charity.

Watch him wandering this obsessively crafted course, though, and a different impression asserts itself: that of a callow and possibly quite lonely prodigy, who travels in a scrum of minders and marketing men, who was refused permission to bring his parents to Valderrama as guests, and who may be able to detect, intuitively, the vast envy and suspicion that his dramatic emergence have aroused.

> Young, black, gifted, rich and a Ryder Cup rookie. It was never an easy package for him to carry to Spain

Special invitations are extended to wives and girlfriends of players, but not parents. What Woods said about this harsh policy was touching and sad. "My Mum and Pop were upset because not too many 21-year-olds make the Ryder Cup team. Being so young, I probably wouldn't have a spouse. I'm in a different environment with a lot of pressure, and it's nice to have somebody to vent to, to look to for support."

"I'm not doing anything special for anyone. This is a team event," says Tom Kite, the American captain.

But Woods has allies in the American camp. Mark O'Meara is a neighbour in Florida and often takes the same flights home. On Tuesday, O'Meara made a point of saying: "This week has been good for Tiger and those in our team who haven't spent much time with him. There is no reason why we can't all be friends; he certainly wants to be friends. He's a good kid with a good heart and tremendous amounts of determination."

Tom Lehman, the most leathery and seasoned of the Americans, says: "I've told Tiger directly that I think he has handled himself incredibly well in the last year. I speak for all my team-mates when I say I'm incredibly proud to be in the same team. He's just one of the guys this week." By praising him thus, Lehman was sending Woods a memorandum, drawing him in tighter in the face of an approaching ordeal.

From the moment Earl Woods gave his son a nickname taken from a Vietnamese soldier, Tiger Woods was bound to be a distinctive presence in the American game, where racial issues lay dormant for so long. Young, black, gifted, fabulously rich and a Ryder Cup rookie. It was never an easy package for him to carry to Spain.

An illuminating piece of gossip seeped from the clubhouse yesterday. Woods had been sent a note which read: "I am the blonde lady who watched you practise on the putting green today. If you would like to come outside I'm sure I could help you have some fun."

Everybody wants a piece of Tiger Woods. None more so, from tomorrow, than the European team.

Ballesteros gets bogged down in the nitty gritty

David Davies sees Europe's captain deal with the fine points

WITH the air of an exasperated parent, Severiano Ballesteros climbed into a bunker by the 9th green yesterday. The bubble above his head read quite clearly: "Do I have to do *everything* around here?"

Standing in the sand was a slightly shame-faced Darren Clarke, who had twice thinned a bunker shot almost off the green.

It was too much for the captain, who climbed wearily out of his buggy. Clarke's ball had been deposited on the back slope of the bunker by his partner Lee Westwood, and the Irishman faced a difficult shot to a pin cut close to the front of the hazard.

But it was not *that* difficult, as Ballesteros was at pains to explain. "You are lifting the club too sharply, too quickly. When you *do* that the club will bounce and you will top it or thin it, like you just did. We must change that. Take the club back lower, keep it lower through the ball."

Clarke did just as his captain had told him and his next effort came floating out before settling softly by the hole, nine inches away.

The crowd roared their approval, Seve smiled and Clarke, emboldened by it all, decided to repeat the shot. It was a mistake. It ignored the basic law of show business: leave 'em laughing when you go. The ball hit the face of the bunker, trickled back to his feet and Ballesteros, alerted by the sudden embarrassed silence around the green, turned and saw what had happened. His series of shrugs and heavenward glances spoke volumes.

That little episode was to have important repercussions. On team occasions the captain is able to suggest tactical manoeuvres or, *à la* Clarke, ways of playing a shot. "If necessary I will do it in a match," said Ballesteros. "Even with Nick Faldo. If I see something wrong I will go and tell them." He is determined there will be nothing, *nothing* that will not be done if he thinks it can help.

Hence the exercise this morning of the European players going out as singles, head to head. No captain in memory has had his team practise singles before. But Ballesteros knows Europe have traditionally had the worst of it in the singles and he wants his men to know the feeling this week of playing without a supporting partner.

He is also exploring the outer reaches of amateur psychology in his search for the ideal pairings for the foursomes and fourballs. Prior to this week no one would have predicted that Faldo and Ignacio Garrido would have played together, but they have practised together twice so far and, with hindsight, Ballesteros is obviously looking to see whether his "loners" can get on with each other.

Similarly, he broke up the all-Swedish partnership of Jesper Parnevik and Per-Ulrik Johansson to see if the latter could renew the chemistry of Oak Hill with Bernhard Langer, where the two men won a point. Jose Maria Olazabal, sometimes too intense, has not partnered Garrido in the all-Spanish practice partnership many assumed; instead Olazabal has played with the least intense man in golf, Costantino Rocca.

One potential foursomes partnership seems to have hit the rocks already. Faldo set out with Westwood yesterday and at the 5th, a shortish par four, dog-legged to the left, Westwood took out a driver. "Perhaps the three-wood," murmured Faldo gently.

"But if I hit the driver you'll only have a wedge to the green," said Westwood, who could see only fairway. But Faldo could see the trees on either side of the fairway, and an unhappy Westwood hit the three-wood.

Shortly after that Tommy Horton, in his role as adviser to Ballesteros, was on his mobile phone to the captain, and shortly after *that* Westwood switched partners, from Faldo to Clarke. Shortly after that Westwood put Clarke in a bunker, which is where we came in.



Clarke . . . shame-faced

Europe taunted by Rude words

David Davies

IF Severiano Ballesteros wants something to stick up in the team room to get the lads going, the American magazine Golfweek and their aptly-named columnist Jeff Rude have provided it.

An article of drum-beating drivel claims that Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam are all old and past it, that Sandy Lyle and Ballesteros himself are "at the 19th hole" of their careers and that as a consequence the United States will resume winning the Ryder Cup as of right.

Rude says that the contest will again become no contest. "It goes back to being a snore now," he says. The brunt of his argument is that Europe got lucky. Lucky to have all the above born in the same year so that they came good in the same period and now are fading at the same time. "They are graying," he says, "the European Tour's highest layer is thinning and Tiger Woods is playing. Game, set, obit.

"So we go back to lop-sided [competition], maybe for decades again, or until Europe permits two-legged cloning. And we start at Valderrama."

It is an argument based on an assumption of innate American superiority, which is based on events that ceased to happen in 1983, when Europe first realised they were the equal of their opponents. It ignores the inconvenient fact that the "unknowns" he sneers at are golfers such as Eamon Darcy, Christy O'Connor and Philip Walton who all hit shots that won Ryder Cups.

Rude quotes Paul Azinger as saying that the Europeans "just put out their eight show horses". Rude then says: "Current racing form suggests the ageing stable is down to five such thoroughbreds, three from the 57-58 boom year, plus Colin Montgomerie and Jose Maria Olazabal. The rest are claimers."

But perhaps the most obnoxious comments concern Ballesteros. Rude says: "We know, of course, who is steering the [European] ship in these choppy waters and we know gamesmanship could get the better of sportsmanship."

And then, in what Ballesteros may care to construe as libel, he asks: "What will Seve say if his team loses?" He answers the question himself. "What's the Spanish word for cheaters?"

Tennis

No final farewell for beaten Becker

Stephen Bierley in Munich

BORIS BECKER's first-round Grand Slam Cup defeat by Jonas Bjorkman yesterday would have been enough to drive this city to drink, except that, this being Oktoberfest time when countless steins of beer are filled and emptied as if orchestrated by a deranged sorcerer's apprentice, not the slightest excuse is needed.

Bjorkman's 6–3, 6–2 victory was predictable, even though the majority inside the Olympiahalle could not quite believe their partisan eyes. The Swede, who lost to Greg Rusedski in the semi-final of the US Open, is the best returner in the game and Becker's first serve is no longer what it used to be.

More importantly the German, who won this tournament for the first time last year, has played hardly any competitive tennis since losing his Wimbledon quarter-final to Pete Sampras in July. Initially he was injured and then he pulled out of the US Open, set to be his final Grand Slam tournament, when his manager Axel Meyer-Woelden, the former tournament director here, died of cancer.

"Auf wiedersehen, Boris," said the announcer, bidding Becker farewell to Munich and the Grand Slam Cup. Not unreasonably, for Becker had said during Wimbledon that he was not going to play the four Grand Slam events next year. But this valedictory in the Olympiahalle was, it transpired, precipitous.

"I don't know where he got the information from. Not me," said Becker, who will continue playing in the Davis Cup for Germany next year and in enough tournaments to keep in shape in the meantime.

However, the implication was that he might be given another wild card for this $6 million (£4 million) tournament next year. "I don't expect it. It has to be decided by the Grand Slam chairmen," Becker said.

Without Becker it seems unlikely that this tournament, inaugurated in 1990, can survive in Munich beyond another year. Surely, if it is to survive at all, it should change its venue each year, and involve the women.

The huge cash prizes are its selling point, but the competition is often thin, with only two matches per day for the next three days prior to Sunday's final. The tournament needs to be beefed up, and Becker's eclipse as a force seems the appropriate time.

The other three winners yesterday were Pat Rafter, the US Open champion, who defeated Thomas Muster, another player living on borrowed time; Petr Korda, against whom Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten defaulted with a twisted ankle; and Sampras.

Rusedski, already assured of £165,000, plays the world No. 4 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia in his quarter-final tomorrow.

Sailing

Anxious times for the leaders as wind drops

Bob Fisher

THE front-runners had an anxious day in the Whitbread Round the World Race, with placings depending critically on how far off Cape Finisterre they sailed.

Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner was furthest west and took the lead in the early evening, but after 24 hours it had dropped to fourth behind boats that were 50 miles closer to the land.

In light winds, often with rain, there can be big gains and losses as those boats which find streaks of wind can pull away from the rest.

Although there have been some cases of this, the overall position has not changed dramatically.

Paul Cayard's EF Language was back in the lead late yesterday, but that crew could look over their shoulders to Grant Dalton's Merit Cup a mile and a half behind and Lawrie Smith's Silk Cut a further mile back. The leaders have sailed only 150 miles in 24 hours, having travelled further in the first 12 hours of the race.

The leading boats are spread in a line, 100 miles from east to west. EF Language is in the middle and Chris Dickson's Toshiba is the most easterly. Toshiba, however, has dropped 25 miles further back and Dickson is now 45 miles astern of Cayard in sixth place.

Sport in brief

Cycling

Leon van Bon underlined the scorching pace of this year's Tour of Spain when he won yesterday's 18th stage at an average speed of 29.6mph. The Dutchman outsprinted the Frenchman Laurent Brochard and Italy's Stefano Colage at the finish of the 183.7km ride from Burgos to Valladolid but his victory did not affect the overall standings. Alex Zölle of Switzerland still leads by 2min 46sec from Spain's Fernando Escartin.

Hockey

England will play Australia in the semi-finals of the Junior World Cup at Milton Keynes tomorrow, *writes Pat Rowley*. Australia finished first in their group when they held Spain to a 1–1 draw yesterday. The other semi-final tomorrow will be between the holders Germany and India.

Bowls

Sarah and David Gourlay, a mother and son partnership, enjoyed a comfortable victory over England's Mary Price and John Bell to maintain Scotland's unbeaten record at the inaugural European Team Championships in Guernsey.

The Scottish team have taken an early four-point lead, along with Ireland, after the opening two rounds thanks to the Gourlay's 22–9 win and Joyce Lindores and George Adrain's 18–9 defeat of Guernsey's Brenda Hurford and Bernie Simon.

Football

Sir Bobby Charlton intends to celebrate his 60th birthday next month by playing for a local amateur team in Manchester. The former Manchester United and England player has agreed to play for Moss Side-based outfit Moss Amateurs, who are scheduled to meet Tintwistle Villa on his birthday, October 11.

Swimming

Andrew Ayres, Britain's No. 1 in the 200 metres breaststroke, has broken a vertebra after falling out of a toilet window in a hotel in the Canary Islands. Ayres, who was attending a two-week training camp in Lanzarote, became locked in a hotel toilet and when security guards could not break down the door he panicked, climbed out of the window and fell 20ft.

Squash

Peter Nicol, who hopes to win back the US Open title this week as part of his build-up to the World Open in November, had a long struggle before surviving the opening round in Minneapolis, *writes Richard Jago*.

The Scot needed five games and 105 minutes before overcoming England's British national champion Mark Cairns 12–15, 15–7, 15–12, 16–17, 15–11.

Equestrianism

Fletcher clears a path to victory

John Kerr at Wembley

TINA FLETCHER, repeating last year's victory, won the Saffron National Grade C championship on McCoist at the opening stage of the Horse of the Year Show here yesterday.

In a four-horse jump-off the Oxfordshire woman had the faster of two clears with more than a second to spare from another new partnership, Mark McCourt on Exander. Geoff Billington had a disappointing round with 15 faults on Pure Silk to finish fourth behind Keith Doyle on Swift Cavalier.

Fletcher, 32, a dual Queen's Cup winner at Hickstead in 1992-93, rides her seven-year-old again in today's Foxhunter Championship, the year's main target for novice jumpers.

Caroline Webley, 18, from Redditch, riding Masterly, jumped the only two clear rounds to win the National Young Riders Championship, the last in a decider reached by only three of the 37 starters. Ben Dunning on Miss Party Piece and Marie Warwick on Wallstreet Blues, each with four faults, were second and third respectively, divided on time.

Rugby gravy train hits buffers, page 13

Tiger hunts for his place, page 15

Gunners open fire, page 14

Becker's final farewell, page 15

SportsGuardian

Mohamed Al Fayed aims for the big time

Fulham quick to snap up Keegan

Martin Thorpe

KEVIN KEEGAN, who left football some eight months ago when he walked out on Newcastle and the Premiership is expected to return to the game today with Second Division Fulham.

The club's billionaire owner Mohamed Al Fayed appears to have persuaded Keegan to take on the role of chief executive at Craven Cottage. Ray Wilkins, coaching at Crystal Palace, is expected to be named as manager.

Fulham would say little yesterday but it is understood that although negotiations with Keegan were still being finalised, an announcement will be made today.

Keegan said shortly after his departure from Tyneside in January that his remaining ambition in the game was to take a struggling club in the lower divisions and transform them into a football power. Al Fayed's millions will give him every opportunity.

The Harrods owner believes only a high-profile and respected football figure such as Keegan can deliver the goods he ordered when he took over Fulham in May: Premiership football inside three seasons — "the Manchester United of the south".

After buying club and ground and promising to invest at least £30 million, including redeveloping Craven Cottage as a 25,000 all-seat stadium, Al Fayed is now gambling that his chequebook and Keegan's pulling power can attract the quality of players needed for such a rocket-like risé through the divisions.

Al Fayed and Keegan met as long ago as June to discuss the move having been introduced, it is understood, by *Bob Nobay*, an Al Fayed aide, Fulham director and former business partner of Keegan.

Keegan was even seen with Al Fayed at a recent Fulham game, a public display which many fans criticised as insensitive and unprofessional by both men given that Micky Adams was still the manager.

After leaving Newcastle, Keegan said he had nothing to prove in returning to management. But last week he publicly admitted for the first time that he might come back if given the right opportunity.

Doubts remain about how much success Keegan can buy given his record at Newcastle where he failed to win the title having spent £60 million. And Wilkins' only experience as a manager ended in relegation with Queens Park Rangers. His record in the transfer market can most charitably be described as disastrous.

Adams failed to arrive with the Fulham team at Wolves last night for their Coca-Cola Cup tie at Molineux. Team affairs were in the hands of the assistant manager Alan Cork and a notice posted by Wolves said: "Officials and players from Fulham have been *instructed not to comment on* the reports."

And not all is sweetness and light in SW6. When Keegan went to Newcastle in the summer of 1982, the whole of Tyneside greeted his arrival. Yesterday Al Fayed's decision to push Adams aside when he was just over a year into a five-year contract, was described at the ground by one long-standing season-ticket holder as "disgraceful".

Last May Adams guided Fulham to promotion from the Third Division in his first full season as a manager and supporters have come to idolise the 35-year-old.

They have reacted with dismay to what they see as a ruthless, big-business move and struggle to recognise the club they once knew as friendly Fulham. "Compared to Al Fayed Jimmy Hill looks positively attractive," another season-ticket holder said of the much-maligned former chairman. "At least he listened to supporters' views."

Blackburn proved money can buy success. Middlesbrough did not. Today Al Fayed and Keegan are expected to begin their *experiment in higher purchase.*

Michael Walker, page 14

Life and times

1951 Born February 14 in Armthorpe, Yorkshire.
1968 Joined Scunthorpe United as an apprentice.
1971 Transferred to Liverpool for £35,000.
1972 Made England debut v Wales in Cardiff.
1973 Won first of three First Division championship medals and two Uefa Cup winners' medals at Anfield.
1977 Moved to Hamburg for £500,000 after inspiring Liverpool to their first European Cup triumph.
1978 Won first of two European Footballer of the Year awards.
1980 Returned to England in £420,000 move to Southampton.
1982 Won last of 63 England caps as a substitute v Spain at the World Cup. Moved to Newcastle for £100,000.
1984 Retired after Newcastle won promotion to First Division.
1992 Appointed Newcastle manager in February.
1993 Named First Division Manager of the Season after leading Newcastle to top flight as champions.
1994 Agreed 10-year deal as Newcastle's director of football.
1996 Showed strain in Sky TV interview as Manchester United overturned 12-point deficit to win Premiership title.
1997 Resigned as Newcastle manager on January 8.



Quick return . . . Kevin Keegan ready to try his hand at another managerial challenge just eight months after sudden quitting Newcastle United, the club he revitalised

Short change for the Cottage customers



Frank Keating

PINCH ME. Wake me up. Don't bother. It really looks to be a dream come true, and Kevin Keegan is all set to run Fulham. No problems now; Premiership, here we come.

His sidekick, can you believe, is going to be another former England eminence, Ray Wilkins. Watch out, Ferguson. Are you listening, Dalglish? Fulham's on its way — and they've got Mohamed Al Fayed's cheerfully unlimited millions with which to get on with it.

It is a scenario all Fulham fans must have dreamed of throughout the 101 years since the ever-nonchalantly matey club moved from those windblown West Brompton playing fields to set up permanent home at Craven Cottage.

For more than a quarter of that century, I have been passingly involved. I came to London as a boy from the cuddly west, and as the Fifties became the Sixties, I was lumbered with a fan's deep fondness for Fulham — innocent west London days when a joint was a jazz cellar, a trip was a moonlight bedsit-flit and dope, most *times*, was simply Bedford Jezzard's latest signing from the Hellenic League.

From manager Jezz, who won two England caps as a Fulham player, a lovely litany of good guys — and mostly former club players — such as Vic Buckingham, Bobby Robson, Bill Dodgin, Alec Stock and Malcolm Macdonald, took over the reins. And now Kevin Keegan. Wow!

Micky Adams was a manager very much in the Fulham tradition. He took full control of the team only 18 months ago when it languished second bottom of the Third Division, staring the Vauxhall Conference in the face. He closed that trapdoor and last season thrillingly took Fulham to promotion. Of all of the dear fellows, no Fulham manager in my memory had been so popular with the large hard-core of true fans. In the spring, Adams signed a five-year contract.

This summer, Al Fayed bought the club. After the team's victory in front of its new owner and his retinue of expensively clad, furtive-eyed bodyguards in the opening Division Two match this August, Adams said: "The papers are already saying we're one of the favourites to be promoted — and I'm one of the favourites to get the sack."

And so, in no time, has it come to pass. So this is a story that stinks, to be frank — unless it is one being told by an idiot *au fait* with what English club soccer has fast become.

Fulham began this season brightly. Three successive defeats, against Grimsby, Wolves and then Southend on Saturday, gave Al Fayed his excuse, but, to be sure, yesterday's announcement was on the cards once Bob Nobay, a former great Liverpool buddy and long-time business associate of Keegan's, was put on Fulham's board by Al Fayed in the summer.

Money can't buy you love, but I suppose it can buy success in soccer. Not that Keegan won anything for all the £60 million he spent at Newcastle. (Wilkins's record at QPR was far worse, but let that pass; he didn't have such a fortune to work with). I can see more than a few genuine Fulham fans smirking quietly next spring if, let's say, Northampton, Gillingham and Bournemouth pipped Al Fayed's team for promotion.

Not that they are to be known as fans any longer. Fulham's programme notes have come to refer to supporters as "customers". Well, Al Fayed's a grocer, isn't he? If these oldetyme "fans" stay away, there are plenty of other — and even more well-heeled — customers to take their place. When Al Fayed took over Fulham on May 29, he announced that he liked football — "I have already been *to see a few* Fulham games as an ordinary watcher." But nobody had caught sight nor sound of him — and he has been hard to miss since the Cottage's first pre-season game when, as the Guardian's Martin Thorpe reported, "the new owner arrived in a Mercedes limo complete with tinted windows, followed by a Jeep full of serious-looking guys with bulges in their pockets".

ONE OF Fulham's glories of late has been its "2000" club, run by the fans for the fans (sorry, customers). With donations, dances, auctions and such, it has raised an astonishing £400,000 for the club. This was dismissed as small change by Al Fayed, whose first act was to take over and double the size, for his personal use (and fixing bullet-proof glass and steel reinforced bodyguard-manned doors), the grandstand's Presidents' Box.

So they moved into the sponsors' room; they in turn elbowed the supporters out of their bar. Tossed heartlessly into the street like so many Victorian orphans. England's new soccer. Wake me up when the bad dream's over.

Celtic 'disappointed' as Fifa rules that Collins was entitled to a free

CELTIC were "surprised and disappointed" last night — and deprived of the £2 million they had anticipated — after Fifa ruled they should not receive a transfer fee for John Collins.

The Scotland midfielder left Parkhead for Monaco last year under the Bosman ruling but Celtic disputed the free transfer.

Celtic's managing director and owner Fergus McCann appealed to the world governing body, arguing that Monaco is a principality and not a part of the European Union, as he sought Fifa's backing in his attempt to secure a substantial fee.

A crucial aspect of the Fifa decision Celtic are anxious to resolve is that the Scottish FA appears to have delayed passing on the club's appeal fee.

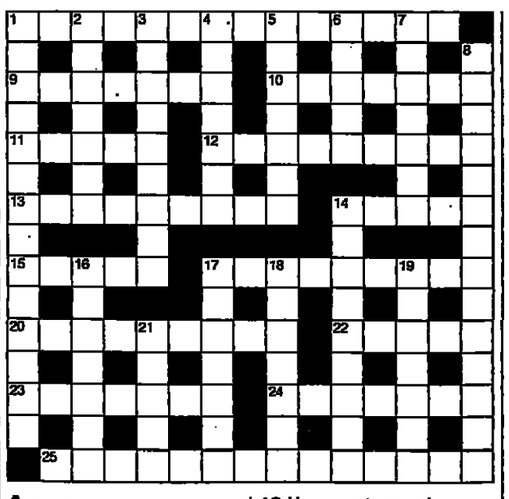
A Celtic statement ran: "The rejection is based on the apparent late arrival of the appeal fee from the SFA. We are investigating this key aspect of the matter. We are considering our position with our advisers."

Rangers are thought to have fined Andy Goram £5,000 for his unexplained four-day absence over the weekend. The Scotland goalkeeper is on the Ibrox injured list with a bad knee and Rangers manager Walter Smith was furious he had not come in for treatment.

Smith hopes to bring Richard Gough back to the club when his stint in the United States Major League ends in October. The defender, who plays for Kansas City Wiz, is also wanted by Torino.

Guardian Crossword No 21,078

Set by Shed



Across

1 Short note of death on the road — question and make statement (14)
9 Singer carrying weapon is the winning type (7)
10 Old composer and princess in Bury (7)
11 Ladies almost moved by vision (5)
12 'New Tony' outflanks Conservatives with no end of a bad name (9)
13 Have guests come in backwards at home (9)
14 About to revise convictions (5)
15 Hanky-panky in the corner's unknown (5)
17 Science in space leads Scotsman to Irish county (9)
20 Make Gallic cook embracing chef in confusion . . . (9)
22 . . . burn outside of pig's head on skewer (5)
23 Pin securing alias on point of escape (7)
24 Returning 101 to Amin? — that's stupid! (7)
25 1 down attending 8? (5,2,3,4)

Down

1 It might be called final end of Empire (7,3,4)
2 Supremely stingy compiler acquires a home (7)
3 Poor Mary is ill likewise (9)
4 Shakespearean daughter's mother accepting one goldfield (7)
5 Calm at the tee-off, interrupting one of five (7)
6 Snake or its headless converse (5)
7 Taken to the limit during sex? Tremendous! (7)
8 Track events, exceptionally horny, due to feature in classical trio (9,5)
14 Two-way bombardment of KKK emblem (9)
16 Seasoning Shakespearean daughter between rounds (7)
17 Minaret's alternative garb (7)
18 Polished writer's catalogue of slums (7)
19 West's remnant picked up by conductor (7)
21 Feature without a series (5)

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